

ALAN COREN

A taste of power: Santa for a day

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THE TIMES

No. 64,818 SATURDAY DECEMBER 4 1993

'I hope you can find it in your hearts to understand and give me the time and space that has been lacking in recent years' — the princess yesterday

Princess of Wales leaves public arena

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Princess of Wales announced yesterday that she is largely withdrawing from the public eye. She is drastically cutting her royal and charity engagements, and will attempt to pursue a much more private life.

Pleading intolerable media intrusion, the princess told an audience of charity workers that she needed time and space to consider her future, and that her first priority was her children, Princes William and Harry. She will carry out her four remaining public engagements before Christmas but her diary for next year, including proposed visits to Russia and Japan, has largely been cleared.

The princess is expected to reduce the number of charities with which she is associated, and to concentrate on a handful of her favourite causes. These will almost certainly include the marriage guidance group Relate and the drink and drug abuse charity Turning Point. Buckingham Palace said last night that it was too early to tell whether she would continue to appear at major royal occasions.

Close to tears and speaking in strained tones, the princess told guests at a lunch given by Headway, the head injuries charity of which she is patron: "Over the next few months I will be seeking a more suitable way of combining a meaningful public role with, hopefully, a more private life."

Her decision had, she said, been reached with the full understanding of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, but at no time did she mention the Prince of Wales. The Palace said afterwards that he had been informed in advance of her speech, and had been helpful while she had been making her decision. Earlier this week the princess telephoned John Major to forewarn him, but Downing Street said last night that her withdrawal carried no constitutional implications. Palace sources strongly refuted suggestions that senior courtiers and some members of the royal family wished to marginalise the princess to prevent her stealing the limelight from the prince.



William Rees-Mogg

"Heaven knows, it should make some people feel ashamed of themselves. The pressure that some of the media have put on her has been intolerable. I would not like this morning to have the conscience of the editor of the *Daily Mirror*, though I suspect that organ may suffer from a certain hardening of the arteries." 16

Suggestions that the princess's withdrawal were the result of a recurrence of bulimia were also discounted, as was the theory that her announcement marked the beginning of a phased total disappearance from public life, ending in an early divorce. The Palace said her announcement made no difference to the present state of relations between herself and her husband. The princess will continue to be funded by the Duchy of Cornwall, and retain her office and staff at St James's Palace.

Last month the princess was angered and dismayed by publication in the *Sunday Mirror* of secretly-taken photographs of her exercising in a private gym, but sources said she had been considering cutting down on her public life long before that; her thoughts on how best to cope with an increasingly isolated position began even before the formal announcement of her separation, a year ago next week.

Then, she declared that she intended to carry on her public life as before. But, as she said yesterday, life and circumstances alter.

"When I started my public life twelve years ago, I understood that the media might be interested in what I did. I realised then that their attention would inevitably focus on both our public and private lives. But I was not aware of how overwhelming that attention would become, nor the extent to which it would affect both my public duties and my personal life, in a manner that has been hard to bear."

The princess continued: "My first priority will continue to be our children, William and Harry, who deserve as much love, care and attention as I am able to give, as well as an appreciation of the tradition into which they were born. I would like to add that this decision has been reached with the full understanding of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, who have always shown me kindness and support. I hope you can find it in your hearts to understand and to give me the time and space that has been lacking in recent years. I could not stand here today and make this sort of statement without acknowledging the heartfelt support I have been given by the public in general. Your kindness and affection have carried me through some of the most difficult periods, and always your love and care have eased the journey."

The princess will carry out her next official engagement as planned on Monday, when she names a jetliner at Heathrow airport for Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airways. On Thursday she will present awards for business and the arts at the Royal National Theatre, and the following day she will open a community centre in south-east London.



The Princess of Wales, who says media attention has become hard to bear, announcing her decision yesterday

Buckingham Palace said last night that the princess would join her husband, their children and other members of the royal family at Sandringham on Christmas Eve, and would remain there for part of Christmas Day. She would also retain her armed services links with two regiments, two Royal Navy ships and an RAF station.

The princess's decision was greeted with disappointment tinged with understanding. Lord St John of Fawsley, the former arts minister and constitutional expert, said he believed she had simply been drained of energy, and that the burden was becoming too heavy for her to carry. "The fact that she is withdrawing, in part, from public life is a great loss to the nation because she is a highly respected and much-loved figure. She has done a great deal of good work and she is a most dedicated person."

At Westminster, MPs were astonished by the decision and were quick to attack the media and courtiers. Dame Jill Knight said: "You cannot avoid the implication that the princess has suffered considerably because of the media and publication of every little thing she does." But Terry Dicks, Tory MP for Hayes and Harlington, said: "The Royal Mafia has won. They are pushing her out. Anyone who takes on The Firm is bound to lose. Look what happened to Fergie."

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, Tory MP for Perth and Kinross, said: "She is not moving out of public life. She is being pushed out of public life by the bureaucratic thugs who go under the name of courtiers. Poor girl. They are brutalising her. It is scandalous."

Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of Burke's Peerage, said: "She has added glamour to the Royal Family and drawn the love and affection of millions by her obvious caring nature. However, she has taken attention away from the efforts of her husband to take monarchy in the 21st century by the very success of her own appearances on the public stage."

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Dublin talks edge to a new round

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WATT IN DUBLIN

JOHN Major and Albert Reynolds kept their stalled Ulster peace initiative alive last night by edging towards a declaration which Ireland believes could end IRA violence permanently.

Serious differences surfaced between the two sides during eight hours of talks at Dublin Castle, but a compromise was reached which will allow the negotiating process to continue at the European summit in Brussels next week. Both leaders agreed at a press conference last night that good progress had been made, but admitted that much more had to be done.

Mr Reynolds won agreement to his demand that a peace formula should take precedence over the more detailed talks on the constitutional future of Northern Ireland. But Mr Major secured acceptance of his insistence that a joint declaration should cover constitutional issues.

Mr Major intends that these should include a firm guarantee that there can be no change in the constitutional position of Northern Ireland although there are obvious divisions over whether it should also contain a reaffirmation of the South's readiness to give up its ancient territorial claim on the North.

The atmosphere at yesterday's meeting had been soured by the disclosure over recent days of contacts between the British government and the IRA. It appeared that the Irish government was intent on putting Mr Major on the defensive to extract concessions.

Noel Dempsey, the Fianna Fáil chief whip, gave a series of interviews in which he accused Britain of bad faith. "We expect the cards to be dealt from the top of the deck and not the bottom," he said. Speaking as Mr Major flew

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Fears for race yacht

THE Italian yacht Brooksfield was reported missing on the Indian Ocean leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race last night, nine hours after a distress signal was picked up in Canberra, organisers said.

The yacht, skippered by Guido Maisto and with ten other crew, failed to respond to attempts to contact her.

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£21,000 payout for bad pension deal

BY SARA MCCONNELL PERSONAL FINANCE CORRESPONDENT

AN INSURANCE company has been forced to pay £21,000 in compensation to a teacher who was wrongly advised to leave her occupational pension scheme and put her money into a personal scheme.

Insurance companies fear that hundreds of thousands could seek similar compensation as City regulators prepare to announce the findings of an 18-month investigation into widespread mis-selling of personal pensions by life insurance company agents and brokers. The results of the investigation could be published next week. Jennifer Brown of Dudley, West Midlands, was persuaded to quit the teachers' superannuation scheme and put her money into an Abbey Life pension. The compensation payment agreed by the company this week puts her back in the position she would have been in if she had stayed in her previous scheme.

The Securities and Investments Board, the chief City regulator, said it had called in KPMG Peat Marwick, chartered accountants, to investigate, after initial soundings had revealed "a significant degree" of mis-selling of personal pensions. Since 1988, when personal pensions first became available, an estimated 500,000 people have transferred out of company pension schemes and into personal schemes. The amount transferred is estimated at £7 billion. Personal pensions usually offer worse benefits and the pension depends totally on how well the insurance company invests the contributions. Insurance company salesmen stand to make large commissions by selling personal pensions.

The board said: "People must not panic. Their money is not stolen. If we were not doing anything it might mean that they would get a worse pension. But we are doing something. Compensation may mean reinstating people in their company scheme or topping up their fund." It advised people to wait until they were contacted by their life insurance company. Although potentially up to 500,000 people could be affected, many could turn out to have been given correct advice, it said.

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers, through which Mrs Brown's case was brought, predicted it would be the first of many for teachers. It said 27,000 teachers had been persuaded to take out private pensions since 1988.

Insurers stand firm, page 21

MPs misled over Nadir case papers

BY JILL SHERMAN POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE row over the Asil Nadir fraud case resurfaced at Westminster last night when the attorney-general admitted that privileged defence papers were twice circulated in error to the prosecution.

In a Commons written reply, Sir Nicholas Lyell said he had inadvertently misled MPs and regretted that "no decisive attempt" was made to retrieve the documents until December 1991, months after they were circulated. However, Sir Nicholas said the mistake did not justify an independent investigation, and called for Mr Nadir, the tycoon who jumped bail last May to flee to northern Cyprus, to return and face trial.

Michael Mates, the former Northern Ireland minister who resigned over the affair in June, said accusations against the Serious Fraud Office in his resignation statement had been vindicated and said that there were more revelations to come. He repeated his call for an independent enquiry. "I remain disappointed that he is still resisting my requests for an independent enquiry. He was not told the whole truth by the Serious Fraud Office. He still has not been told all of the truth."

The theme was taken up by Mr Nadir. Speaking from

Continued on page 2, col 5

Patten puts two schools in the sin bin

BY BEN PRESTON EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CROOK primary school in County Durham and Brookside special school in Derby yesterday became the first state schools judged to be failing pupils under the government's new inspection regime. In the wake of damning reports by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), both face possible takeover by government teams.

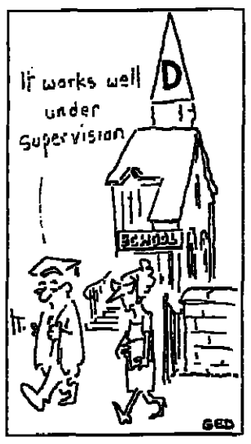
John Patten, the education secretary, expressed "very serious concern" about the quality of education at both schools. He gave their governors and local authorities two months to produce detailed rescue plans. If he is not convinced by their proposals, Mr Patten can sack the governors and hand control to an education association. The success of such "hit squads" would determine whether a school was permanently closed or allowed to become grant maintained.

Opposition politicians and the National Union of Teachers said any problems at the two schools would be compounded by their being "publicly pilloried".

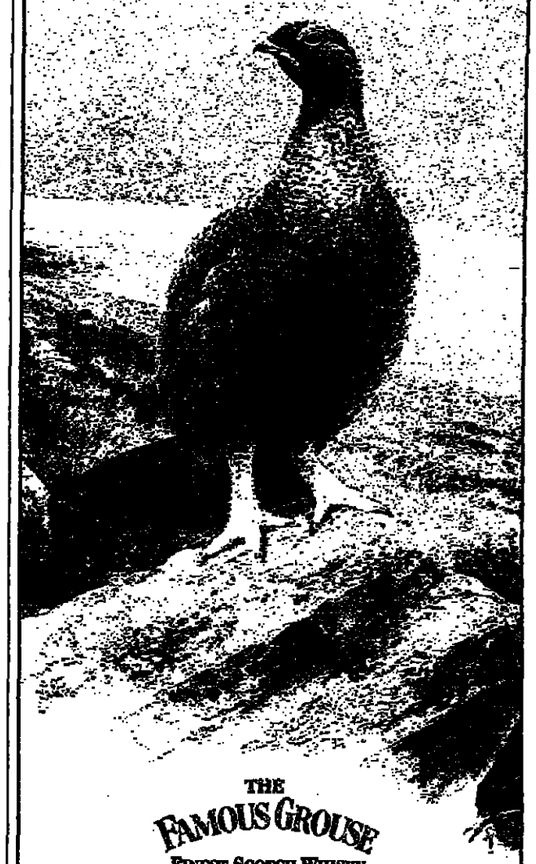
Local reaction was mixed, however. Governors at Crook said they did not recognise their school in the report, which highlighted widespread discipline problems and underachievement by pupils. But Keith Mitchell, Durham's education director, wondered if the inspectors had taken proper account of the school's background.

Dave Wilcox, chairman of Derbyshire's education committee, said he shared concern over Brookside and agreed to an immediate freeze on admissions and the appointment of an acting head to stand in for the current head, who is on sick leave.

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RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY
QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

'Ulster people will not lie down and capitulate to this plan or to IRA'

Paisley flies flag of defiance in Dublin

By Nicholas Watt
Ireland Correspondent

THE Rev. Ian Paisley could not get himself thrown out of the Anglo-Irish talks inside Dublin Castle yesterday: no one had invited him. But the leader of the Democratic Unionists was not going to let that stop him from attempting to upstage the summit from outside the gates.

Flying the red hand of Ulster, a sight not often seen on the streets of Dublin, a grim-looking Mr Paisley strode purposefully up to the scores of police guarding the castle to hand a letter to John Major's officials warning of Dublin's designs on Northern Ireland.

Of course, he could not leave it at that. Astonished builders on a nearby construction site and office workers on their lunch breaks were treated to a booming, blow-by-blow account of Mr Major's alleged treachery.

The Paisleyites had filed into the Georgian square outside the castle with banners reading "Ulster Says NO" and "Eire — Get out of Ulster". They muttered that the castle should have stuck with its old role, rather than being turned onto the scene of a sell-out. History records that the castle played a bloody role better suited to its old job of imprisoning republican fighters as it did during the Easter uprising of 1916.

Reading from his letter, Mr Paisley thundered: "The Ulster people are not going to lie down and capitulate to your Dublin plan easily nor will they capitulate to the IRA."

ADRIAN BROOKS



Mr Major is greeted by Mr Reynolds on his arrival at Dublin Castle for yesterday's talks on the continuing search for a political solution

And in a voice fit to penetrate the castle walls, he told those inside : "You are seeking to make unionists rebel in their own kingdom and a helpless minority in your all-Ireland plan for a so called settlement. Their only unpardonable crime is loyalty."

Dubliners did not know quite what to make of it. Christy Burke, a Dublin City Sinn Fein councillor, sneaked through the crowd to shake Mr Paisley's hand. "I told him that I was a Sinn Fein councillor, and he replied that if he had known he would not have shaken my hand." Others were appalled by the spectacle. Thomas Fay marched into Castle Square with a banner calling for Mr Paisley to be charged with incitement to hatred.

Inside the ornate edifice, the two prime ministers tucked into lunch. The mandatory red carpet was laid out for the British party, but there was little disguising the antipathy between the two sides.

Mr Major's helicopter had barely landed in the grounds when one of Mr Reynolds's key advisers started sniping at Britain. Noel Dempsey, the Fianna Fáil party chief whip, talked of breaches of faith and said that Dublin was irritated with London for talking to the IRA while railing against the Hume-Adams initiative.

Dublin progress, page 1

Dublin summiteers edge their way towards a deal



Garrett: named as IRA sniper's victim

Continued from page 1

and not the bottom," he said. Speaking in the courtyard of the castle as Mr Major flew in, he said that Dublin would be disappointed and annoyed if talks that had taken place in confidence with the British had been relayed to the IRA.

He said that the two governments would not want the initiative to fall by the wayside as a result of the revelations, but he said that the two leaders would have to "clear the debris away".

Mr Reynolds said last night that he and Mr Major had cleared the air between them. Mr Major said that each had felt frustration over recent events: "The first thing to do was to lay to rest those concerns. We did so satisfactorily this morning in private." Mr Reynolds said he was satisfied that the incidents would not "interfere with the continuation of our talks process".

Mr Major said if agreement was not possible this time "we will go on and on until we do. This is not something that will be suddenly cut off."

British officials insisted that the constitutional talks involving Northern Ireland's political parties would run parallel to the effort to secure a joint declaration, but it was accepted that the latter would come first. Britain is still pressing Dublin for its detailed position on the constitution.

Mr Reynolds said that if the initiative resulted in a "balanced agreement" he was prepared to put it to a referendum.

Mr Major, emphasising the scale of the task ahead, said: "We have been discussing all matters that need to be discussed. Many of them have advanced in our discussions; some have not. There are still differences between us. We cannot guarantee that we will end the differences but we can give an assurance we will work towards that."

A British source said last night that the government was cautiously optimistic, but substantial questions still had to be resolved. He said that good progress had been made on the joint declaration and that officials had been sent off to work on the differences before the two prime ministers meet in Brussels next week.

However, the two governments differed over the timescale. While the British source said that no date had been set for agreeing the declaration, Dublin indicated that it was working towards December 17.

☐ A soldier murdered by an IRA sniper in south Armagh was named yesterday as Lance Bombadier Paul Andrew Garrett. The 23-year-old single man from Battersea, south London, was attached to the 26th Regiment, Royal Artillery, and two months into his first tour of duty in Northern Ireland.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope will welcome Anglican priests

Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster and Primate of England and Wales, is expected to have a private audience with the Pope today to seek guidance on accepting priests who wish to leave the Anglican Communion following the decision to ordain of women.

The cardinal arrived in Rome yesterday and is expected to seek, and to get, endorsement from the Pope of a document published last month by the Catholic bishops of England and Wales warmly welcoming Anglican priests who wish to be accepted into the Catholic faith. Among delicate matters the Pope and Cardinal Hume will discuss are how the church should receive married Anglican priests and priests who wish to bring their entire congregations with them, and what rank to give senior Anglican churchmen such as the former bishop of London.

Court stops jail action

The government won a temporary injunction in the High Court against prison officers at Preston jail, Lancashire, who had been turning away prisoners. The officers had taken the action after being urged by the Prison Officers' Association to use their powers as constables to stop prisoners being admitted to jails where breaches of the peace were possible.

Ex-RAF killer jailed

A retired RAF squadron leader who strangled his wife was jailed at Plymouth Crown Court yesterday for five years. John Raglan, 56, of Mutley, Devon, denied murdering his wife Yvonne, 45, last June, but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Psychiatric reports described Raglan as an overcontrolled personality.

Tube driver charged

Subhash Ramanug, 38, the Tube driver whose train ran off without him, was charged by British Transport Police yesterday with endangering the safety of passengers. He will appear before magistrates at Enfield, north London, on January 13. The Piccadilly Line train sped off after Mr Ramanug got out at King's Cross station to fix a faulty door.

Nothing like a dame ...

The writer Muriel Spark was formally created a dame at a Buckingham Palace investiture yesterday and said later: "I never liked being a Mrs." Dame Muriel, 75, who will be returning to her home in Tuscany to work on her latest novel, added: "It is a landmark, very much so. It is very good recognition of my work and I am happy about that too."

Victory for mother



Naheed Ejaz, left, a mother of four who was facing deportation to Pakistan, yesterday succeeded in the Court of Appeal in establishing her right to British citizenship, which the Home Office had nullified because her husband, who was arrested and deported for illegal entry, had deceived immigration authorities. The judges allowed an appeal by Mrs Ejaz, 29, of Bracknell, Berkshire.



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Secret Nadir papers were circulated

Continued from page 1

northern Cyprus where he fled in May, the fugitive tycoon said that he would only return to Britain after an independent public enquiry and "the perpetrators are punished." Mr Nadir said it was "quite unacceptable for privileged papers to be scattered around by the authorities in this cavalier fashion". It meant that he would not have received a fair trial.

Sir Nicholas said that the SFO had already acknowledged to Mr Nadir's solicitors that two sealed bags of documents had been opened in breach of an undertaking in December 1990. However, it had now emerged that privileged documents were circulated to the prosecution team by mistake on November 26, 1990, and on January 10, 1991.

Sir Nicholas said the cases came to light when Peter Knight, Mr Nadir's former solicitor, asked the SFO to look again at its handling of the papers when preparing the case against Mr Nadir.

George Staple, the SFO director, looked into the matter and replied to Mr Knight. Sir Nicholas said: "The director's findings show that my statement, responding to Mr Mates' personal (resignation) statement was incomplete ... and therefore misleading."

The SFO was now investigating, Sir Nicholas said. Mr Nadir's former solicitors had been asked to provide details to an independent counsel of all privileged documents taken from him and Polly Peck International.

The SFO's handling of the privileged documents in the case of Mr Nadir, the former Polly Peck chairman who was arrested on theft and false accounting charges, was a central feature of Mr Mates's resignation statement. He accused the SFO of exerting improper pressure on a judge, of leaking material to the press and seizing personal documents that Mr Nadir needed for his defence.

Earlier this month the SFO acknowledged that allegations of a plot to bribe the judge in the case were "spurious and groundless" and apologised to Mr Justice Tucker for any offence caused when questions were raised about whether he should remain in charge of the trial.

Last night, Mr Staple said he regretted that earlier enquiries had failed to establish the true position, adding: "No futher evidence has come to light to substantiate any of the other allegations which have been made about the SFO's handling of Mr Nadir's case."

Later the SFO expressed annoyance at Mr Mates's claims that there were further revelations to come. "If Mr Mates has any other points then he should write to the director of the SFO. If he did so, any complaint would be thoroughly investigated. But the director of the SFO does not think it appropriate when complaints are conveyed through the media."

'I hope in some way I have been of service to you all'

THE PRINCESS'S SPEECH IN FULL

THIS is the text of the speech that was given by the Princess of Wales yesterday at a luncheon in aid of the Headway National Head Injuries Association in London.

"It is a pleasure to be here with you again, sharing in your successes of the past year. Headway has grown into an organisation which is improving the quality of so many lives. I am so proud of the work you have achieved.

In the past 12 years, I can honestly say that one of my greatest pleasures has been my association with people like you.

During those years I have met many thousands of wonderful and extraordinary people, both here and around the world — the cared for and the carers.

To the wider public, may I say that I have made many friends. I have been allowed to share your thoughts and dreams, your disappointments and your happiness.

You also gave me an education, by teaching me more about life and living than any books or teachers could have done. My debt of gratitude to you all is immense. I hope, in some way, I have been of service in return.

A year ago I spoke of my desire to continue with my work unchanged. For the past year I have continued as before.

However, life and circumstances alter and I hope you will forgive me if I use this opportunity to share with you my plans for the future, which now indeed have changed.

When I started my public life 12 years ago, I understood that the media might be interested in what I did. I realised then that their attention would inevitably focus on both our private and public lives.

But I was not aware of how overwhelming that attention would become; nor the extent to which it would affect both my public duties and my personal life, in a manner that has been hard to bear.

At the end of this year, when I have completed my diary of official engagements, I will be reducing the extent of the public life I have led so far. I attach great importance to my charity work and intend to focus on a smaller range of areas in the future.

Over the next few months I will be seeking a more suitable way of combining a meaningful public role with, hopefully, a more private life.

My first priority will continue to be our children, William and Harry, who deserve as much love, care and attention as I am able to give, as well as an appreciation of the tradition into which they were born.

I would also like to add that this decision has been reached with the full understanding of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, who have always shown me kindness and support.

I hope you can find it in your hearts to understand and to give me the time and space that has been lacking in recent years.

I could not stand here today and make this sort of statement without acknowledging the heartfelt support I have been given by the public in general.

Your kindness and affection have carried me through some of the most difficult periods — and always your love and care have eased that journey. And for that I thank you, from the bottom of my heart."

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
Hoorays for Hollywood

For years, American critics and audiences alike have feasted on talents imported from Britain. Americans think of British actors as coming from a richer, more classical



training, something that no self-respecting Brit is in a hurry to refute. This acclaim has reached fever pitch. Top of the Hollywood favourites from this side of the Atlantic is Daniel Day-Lewis, now starring in Scorsese's The Age of Innocence.

The new Hollywood invasion — tomorrow in The Sunday Times

Sadness, shock and public sympathy as an icon takes her leave

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

A HUGE posse of reporters were waiting outside the London Hilton to record the potential loss of their livelihoods. The prospect of "For Sale" signs on paparazzi step-ladders loomed large.

The princess arrived at 12.30pm, several hours after rumours of what she would say began circulating in Fleet Street. Wearing a bottle green suit with a black velvet collar, she joined 500 other guests in a grand ballroom, where she ate a traditional Christmas lunch on the top table, seated between John Phillips, the chairman of Headway, and Don Neese, the managing director of the Lockheed corporation, which sponsored the lunch.

Other guests included Lord Archer, an active supporter of Headway, Esther Rantzen, a charity patron and television personality, and Gavin Campbell, her co-presenter on *That's Life*.

Mr Campbell said that during the lunch the princess was "jovial and friendly and jolly and thoughtful by turn". She then had to wait for 40 minutes on the stage at the head of the ballroom before her turn to speak.

At times the Princess appeared apprehensive and uncomfortable. She flicked through her notes, occasionally resting her chin on her hand or stroking a finger across her brow. She relaxed a little during the auction which preceeded her speech and watched as a carriage clock she donated was finally sold to a Nottingham businessman for £6,000.



The emotion clearly shows on the Princess of Wales' face as she delivers her speech to a supportive audience

An hour behind schedule, the princess began to speak. She was solemn and tense. "I hope in some small way I have been of service," she said, flushing and biting her lip at the predictable applause. She continued, looking composed but unhappy. At the end she seemed choked, leaving the platform abruptly and not raising her eyes to the standing ovation.

Lord Archer took the microphone and spoke of his sympathy for the princess, to cries of "hear, hear!" from members of a supportive but shocked audience.

Mr Campbell said afterwards: "Everybody in the room was impressed by how she handled it and handled herself. I think any of us in her position would be trying to safeguard our families and do what's important for them. She was moved to say it, and moved in the saying of it."

The announcement came as a complete surprise to the Headway executives. Ian Garrow, a director, said he felt flattered that the princess had chosen to make her announcement at the lunch.

"Everyone I spoke to afterwards has expressed some concern that the princess may be finding the pressures too much in terms of charity commitment. I could see there were certain people who were clearly surprised. One lady was wiping her eyes," he said.

Lord Archer said the princess told him about the announcement a few hours before the speech. "My reaction is one of deep sadness. She briefed me this morning. She has become a very professional member of the royal family, which is why she had raised so many millions of pounds for charity over the years. I know from my work with the Red Cross that when she comes we double, treble or even quadruple the amount we make."

Afterwards, the princess hurried to her waiting Jaguar and looked upset as she was driven away.

"I don't think it will be any easier for her now," said a watching journalist. "People will be chasing her all over the place more than ever".

Royal watchers ask: Did Diana go or was she pushed?

BY ALAN HAMILTON



The world's press demonstrating the princess's star quality after her speech at a charity lunch in London yesterday

IN A world full of pious hopes, one of the most hopeless must surely be that, in the coming year, the media will begin to ignore the Princess of Wales. Her decision to reduce drastically her public life is a choice born partly of the intolerable pressure of film-star media attention. But it is equally a choice imposed, however subtly or indirectly, by the painfully obvious fact that the royal family no longer speaks or acts in unison.

To say that the secretly taken pictures of the leotard-clad princess published recently by the *Sunday Mirror* were the last straw in her over-publicised life would be overstating the case. There have been too many last straws for any single one to be identified as the back-breaker.

Nor is it unduly significant that she made her announcement yesterday within a week of the first anniversary of the announcement of her formal separation from the Prince of Wales. She has been unhappy, uneasy and uncertain of her role for much longer than that.

Conspiracy theories will now take wing, the front runner being the one that says she has been pushed aside by the prince and by certain courtiers loyal to the text of constitutional monarchy rather than its individual players. That theory has it that the glamorous but possibly unstable princess is a distraction, and that attention must now be focused on the heir to the throne and his good works.

That theory does not entirely hold water. The Queen, the final arbiter in all such matters to whom even her own children defer absolutely, has been at pains in difficult circumstances to ensure that there has been no obvious public ostracism of her daughter-in-law. Immediately after last year's separation, Diana was seated at the top table at the Edinburgh summit banquet for European leaders; in three weeks she will join the royal family at Sandringham for Christmas eve and part of Christmas day.

The key is the children. She cannot for the foreseeable future be entirely excluded from royal circles; she is the mother of the next king but one. The Queen is also aware that she is an enormous public relations asset, although her separation from the prince does not make capitalising on that asset particularly easy.

A year ago, the princess and the rest of the royal family entertained the fond hope that a formal announcement of marital separation, after months of feverish press speculation that turned out to be largely correct, might lance the boil and dim the public spotlight, which had shone with a ferocious intensity since the publication of Andrew Morton's essentially accurate exposure of the royal marriage sham. It has not. Earlier this year, the end of the princess's tether was briefly glimpsed when she emerged with her children from a showing of *Jurassic Park*. She went up to a photographer jostling for a shot on the pavement and said: "You make my life hell."

Any theory that the princess has been driven into purdah merely by the hot breath of the press on her heels must, however, be tinged with a degree of scepticism. At the time of her separation it was disclosed by no less an authority than Lord McGregor of Durris, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, that the princess had been manipulating certain newspapers, notably the *Daily Mail*, to have her side of the marriage story given a wider currency.

But the princess is not Garbo; it is more than a simple story of a celluloid icon driven demented by the relentless publicity carousel, who needs to get off to find herself.

Palace sources, even unofficial ones, deny vehemently that men in pinstripe suits have been plotting against the princess, to have her shunted into a siding so that the Pullman train of monarchy may proceed on the main line. There will, however, be relief, even satisfaction, in some palace corridors that the princess is withdrawing from the limelight to consider her future. She still grabs too many headlines, to the detriment of the prince who, in spite of the denials of his staff and even of himself, appears to be trying to take a more positive and higher-profile grip of his public life.

In her speech yesterday the princess paid tribute to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh for their continuing support, but at no time did she mention her husband. He was informed of her intentions, which he could hardly fail to be as their staffs still work cheek-by-jowl in St James's Palace, and he is said to have approved fully of his estranged wife's decision.

Given her demeanour at the London Hilton yesterday, making the speech was a great strain for the princess. Clearly she now feels isolated and alone. Her two children have departed to boarding school for much of the year; her much-publicised holidays with them to theme parks, whether in Surrey or Florida, seem almost strained, but they are no different from the efforts any separated parent might put into clinging to an influence over their offspring.

She does not know what her role should be, and no one seems able to tell her. She has discussed it with John Major, and is said to have sought a more official ambassadorial role after her recent successful Red Cross visits to Nepal and Zimbabwe. Nothing concrete has been forthcoming.

Her sense of isolation can only be partly by assuaged by the Queen's insistence that she should appear at Sandringham at Christmas — the announcement that she will spend part of Christmas day there could be seen as a particularly unkind cut — and by the announcement that she will retain her armed services commitments to the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the Light Dragoons, two Navy ships and RAF Wittering.

Her announcement does not in itself alter the present situation of her marriage, and is not in itself an indication of impending divorce. In any case if that course were to be followed, no decision would be made or announced for another year. Nor does it confirm some wilder recent speculation, either that she is again suffering bulimia or that the prince has committed himself to marrying Camilla Parker-Bowles after a quick divorce. She is, more simply, confused and besieged, and needs a tactical retreat to plan her future battles.

Princess bows out, page 1
William Rees-Mogg, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Margot Norman watches the end of a love affair with the public

Lonely star says farewell to her friends

MAX Beerbohm once said that Queen Caroline, the unfortunate and largely unlamented wife of George IV, was cast for a tragic role but played it in tights. The same could never be said of the Princess of Wales, who has played hers in tiara and Technicolor, and always to the hilt, for nearly all of the past 12 years.

This is said in no carping spirit, for even her critics (including some of the sourer courtiers) have at some time been proud of their stake in a superstar princess.

I use the word "stake" advisedly, for a sense of public ownership is the key element in that elusive and extremely rare property known as star quality. Every superstar has struggled with it. The more you give the public, the more they demand and the more of you they think they own. And, inevitably, the more you give the public the less you retain for yourself and for those who have a desire and a right to a stake in the private self.

Watching the princess yesterday as she announced her intention to unburden herself of her public life, indeed of her stardom, one had the overwhelming impression that she was making this announcement to her only real friends. As she shed that tear on millions of television screens — around which one can imagine their owners crowding with a sympathetic "Aah!" — she spoke of the "kindness and affection" and the "love and care" of the ordinary and extraordinary people she has met on her walkabouts and in her charity work. Those who talk of a love affair with the camera are missing the point: what this is all about is a love affair with the public, an affair that has palpably broadened as the private love affair that put her in the public eye contracted.

Small wonder that she had the same catch in her voice, announcing the end of that affair, as Edward VIII had when he announced that he was giving up his public role for an attempt at private happiness. She was not simply a woman at the end of her tether. She was a lonely woman saying goodbye to her friends.

The pressures of public engagements *per se* have been less onerous than might be expected for the most-photographed member of the royal family. Since the separation from her husband was announced a year ago, Prince Edward has taken over many of the jobs that would previously have been hers.

In his book *Influence: How To Make The System Work For You*, the Queen's former press secretary Michael Shea said: "Remember there are only two groups in society: them and us." A step-grandmother who tells the world about the princess's bulimia can only be one of "them". For the separated princess, the courtiers gradually moved into that camp too. How could it be otherwise when, as the heir to the throne said recently, his professional life and reputation had in effect been blighted since the day of his marriage?

That book appeared only five years ago, yet even then Mr Shea could say that press report and comment had little effect beyond the day on which they appeared, except in the case of sustained press campaigns which "rarely happen". Both the prince and the princess would ruefully revise that opinion today and so would any journalist with any grace.

If the Princess of Wales is a Marilyn Monroe announcing her desire to live as Greta Garbo, one can only hope that she improves on the latter's fate, which was at least preferable to that of the former.

ROYAL FAMILY ENGAGEMENTS

	1990	1991	1992
The Queen	476	455	446
Duke of Edinburgh	294	298	250
Queen Mother	118	100	91
Prince of Wales	245	301	315
Princess of Wales	234	258	235
Duke of York	23	83	100
Prince Edward	106	195	198
Princess Royal	449	504	471
Princess Margaret	148	103	134

Decision deals a harsh blow to charities

BY ANDREW PIERCE

CHARITIES have been dealt a big blow by the decision of the Princess of Wales to reduce her public activities. The princess is patron or president of 114 charitable organisations ranging from Relate, formerly the Marriage Guidance Council, to the National Aids Trust, Barnardo's and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.

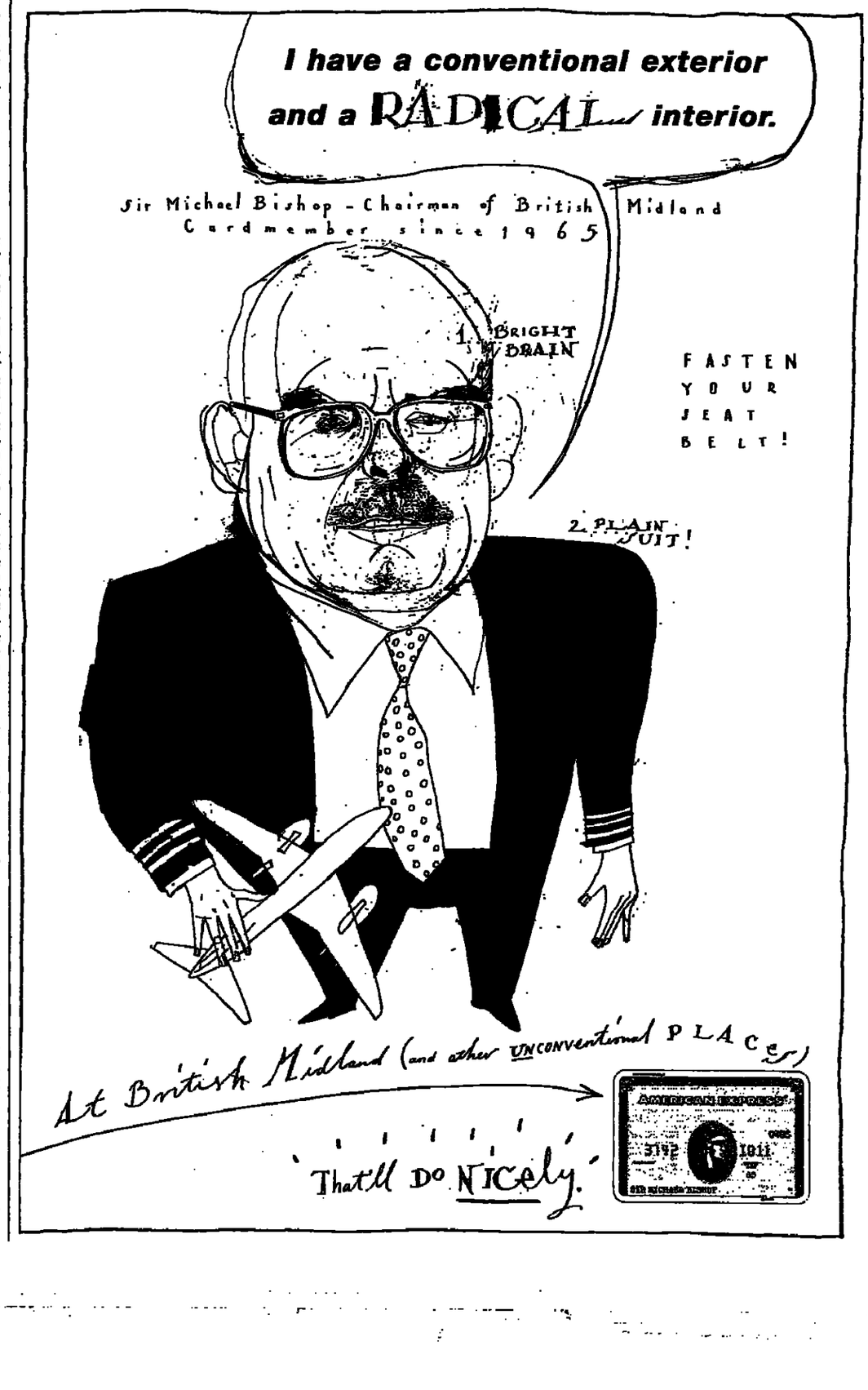
For years the princess has been in the top five of the list of the most hard-working royals. Many of her 235 engagements last year were with her favourite charity organisations. But the next engagements' list, which will be published in January, is expected to show that the princess has fallen to sixth or seventh position. The Princess Royal and the Queen have the biggest workloads.

Zelda West-Meads, of Relate, said: "It's understandable that she needs time for a rest from her public duties. We're happy that she'll continue as patron of Relate. We hope that she will use this time to recharge her batteries and devote a little more time to herself and her family."

Staff at Turning Point, the charity for women with drink, drug and mental health problems, where the princess spoke in June warning about the dangers of tranquillisers, were shocked by the announcement. Dr Wendy Thomson, chief executive, said: "We feel sympathetic and sad that she has come under such pressure that she has had to make this decision. Her work has meant an awful lot to an awful lot of people."

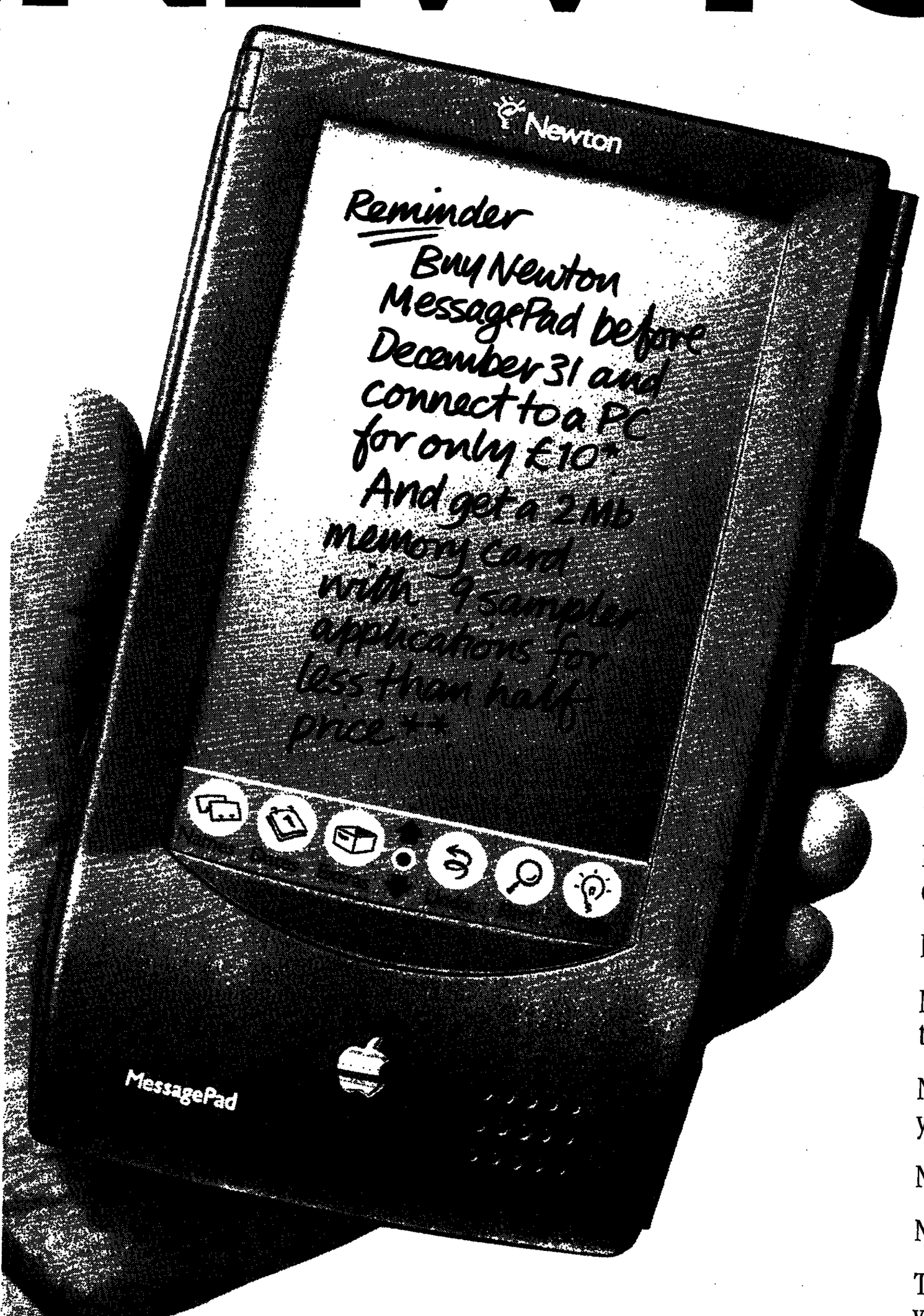
The princess was a leading figure in the drive to raise £54 million for Great Ormond Street's Wishing Well Appeal. She laid the foundation stone of the new building and has been booked to open it in February. One official said: "We just hope she will still come. But we don't know anything yet."

Only last week she was made a vice-president of the British Red Cross. A spokesman said: "The princess has the full support of us. We will now have to wait to see the result of her decision. But we hope she will continue to do a lot of work with us."



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هكذا من الأصل

Inspectors criticise teaching standards, low achievement, pupils' behaviour and value for money

Parents give full marks to school picked out for blame

By Paul Wilkinson

CROOK primary school states its objectives directly and simply on a notice by the front door, plain for its 369 pupils to see.

"We aim to be polite and friendly; be helpful and kind; work hard and quietly; play carefully and sensibly; look after each other."

The message is in direct contrast to the words from the education department's inspectors who yesterday castigated the school for indiscipline, poor teaching standards and low achievement.

News of their condemnation swept through the close-knit Co Durham market town. Anxious parents who gathered at the gate of the redbrick 1950s building, huddling against the wind and driving rain as they waited for their children to emerge, closed ranks in support of their youngsters and the school's 15 teachers. Disbelief and confusion were their main emotions.

"It's a lovely school", said Tracy Hodgson, 31, whose five-year-old daughter Rachel has been at the school for a year. "I am flabbergasted. My daughter is reading well, she is well-behaved, she never complains of bullying and you do hear that complaint of many other schools. Her teacher is lovely."

Beverly Caughey, 31, also has a five-year-old daughter in her first year. She said: "My child is doing well, she is happy and always bringing new books home to read."

Mrs Caughey, who regularly helps in the classrooms, added: "I've never seen any disruptive behaviour or fighting like the report claims."

Ian Walker, who has two daughters, Lindsay and Kimberley, aged eight and four, said he was happy with the schooling they were getting. "They are quite content here. I would be worried if Lindsay couldn't read or did not seem to be making proper progress, but she is fine."

Only one parent, who declined to be named, said that he was concerned enough by the inspectors' report to consider moving his four-year-old son elsewhere, possibly to a private school.

He said: "My wife and I feel that the teachers have no control over the children. There are lots of little niggly things that we are concerned about".

Most of the parents agreed with the governors, who expressed surprise at the regime described by the inspectors.

Bob Pendlebury, chairman of the governors and deputy leader of the Labour-controlled Durham County Council, said: "We have difficulty in recognising Crook primary as we know it.

"The school does not conform to the stereotype of an inner-city school, but it does serve a community struggling to cope with long-term unemployment and economic difficulty."

Crook, which at the start of the century was in the heart of the Durham coalfield, has lost much of its more recent heavy engineering industry and now relies for work on small new technology industrial estates around the town. One in five of its workforce is unemployed.

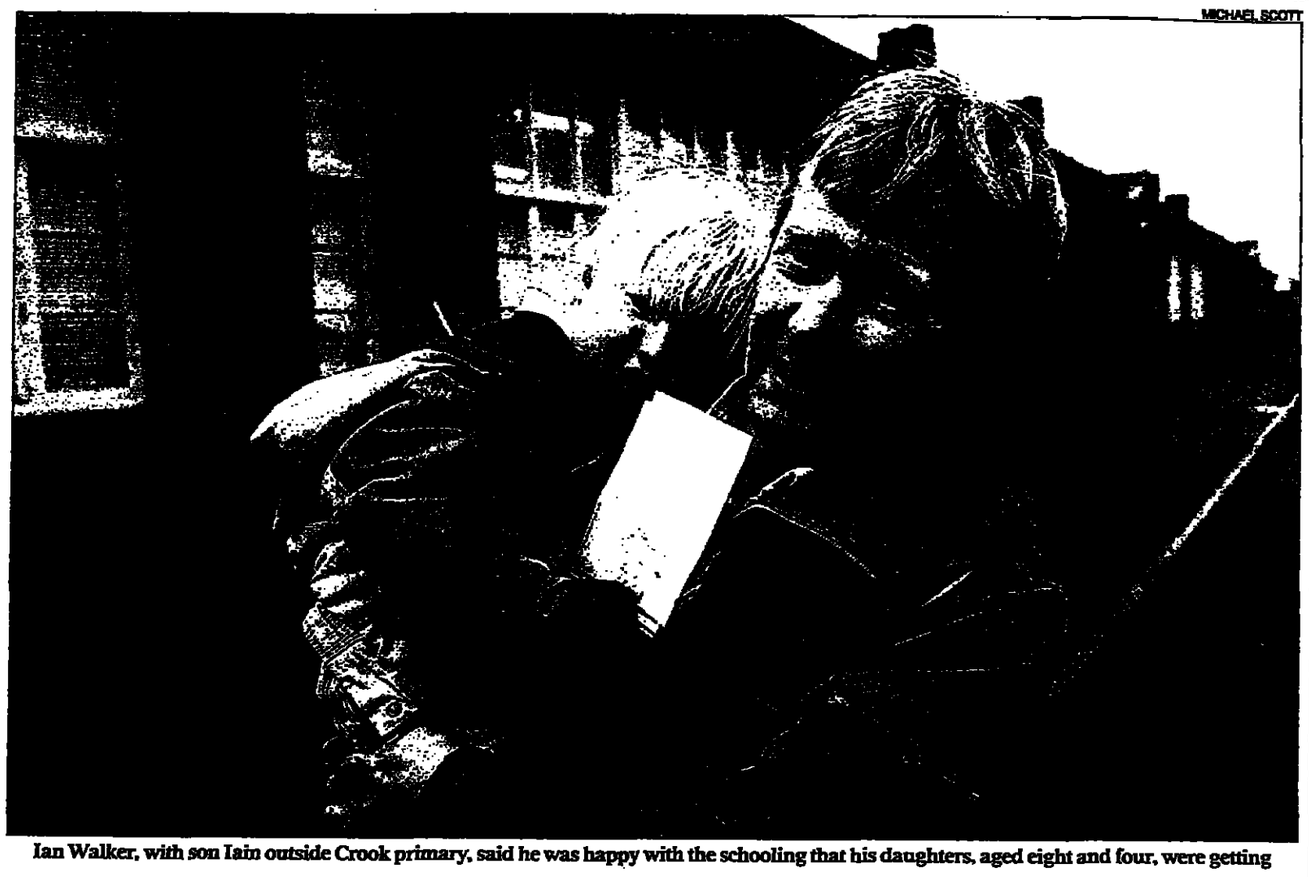
Mr Pendlebury said: "We question whether the national framework within which the inspectors had to operate allowed them to take these factors fully into account."

He also questioned how much the inspectors had considered the newness of the school. It moved into its present premises earlier this year after two years in temporary accommodation, when the town's junior and infant schools amalgamated.

Mr Pendlebury supported Kathleen Brown, the head teacher whose apparent lack of leadership was singled out by the inspectors. He said: "We believe the school is emerging from a difficult period and that if this inspection had taken place in, say, a year's time, the judgments would have been much closer to our own."

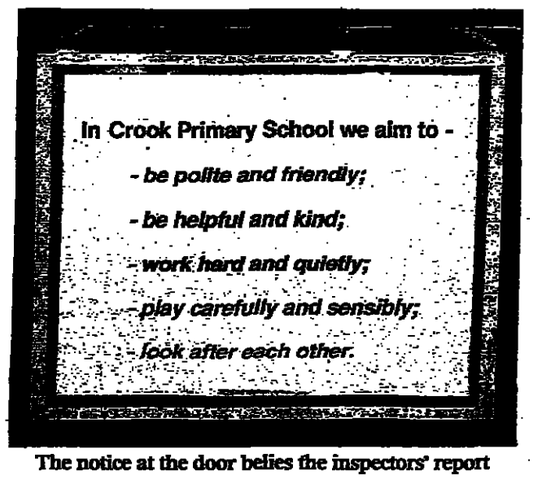
Education officials said that Miss Brown was too busy teaching to defend herself against the inspectors' report before the media.

Her pupils, however, were thoroughly enjoying the day, peering through windows at the press outside. By mid-morning teachers were forced to lower blinds as much to keep curious eyes in as intrusive lenses out.



MICHAEL SCOTT

Ian Walker, with son Iain outside Crook primary, said he was happy with the schooling that his daughters, aged eight and four, were getting



The notice at the door belies the inspectors' report

Concern over fighting in class

By Our Education Correspondent

THE Office for Standards in Education said in its report that there was evidence of "considerable underachievement" among the 369 pupils at Crook primary school, Co Durham. The team of seven inspectors found that the quality of teaching for pupils aged four to 11 was unsatisfactory in six out of ten lessons, with weaknesses across almost all subjects.

The inspectors, who spent a week at the school, concluded that it did not give value for money and criticised the poor behaviour of pupils. Fighting broke out more than once in one class and a large minority of disruptive pupils showed little regard for others and little interest in learning.

The report on Brookside special school in Derby found that standards varied considerably for the boys aged 11 to 16 with emotional and behavioural problems and moderate learning difficulties.

The inspectors criticised the large number of expulsions and incidents of physical restraint as "a matter of serious concern". Up to 14 of the 47 pupils were not on site during the inspection, with some excluded and others receiving home tuition after being excluded.

The report said: "It was not possible to judge standards of achievement in history, music, religious education, and in personal, social and vocational education because these subjects receive insufficient or no teaching time."

Failures to be disciplined

By Ben Preston, Education Correspondent

THE identification of the first two schools to fail the government's new inspection system marked a watershed in a regime that has greatlyincreased the power of the education secretary.

John Patten will soon be able to intervene directly in schools judged to be failing their pupils and to appoint "hit squads" to take emergency action to raise standards.

The new education act builds on legislation ensuring that private teams of freelance inspectors report on each of the 24,000 state schools every four years. The governors of those found to be "at risk" have 40 days to produce a plan for improvements, usually in conjunction with their education authority.

Ministers can then allow the school up to a year to put the plan into effect, or sack the governors and appoint an education association to take charge. If the association succeeds, the school will become grant-maintained. If not, it will be closed.

According to Eric Forth, the schools minister, the associations are likely to be made up of recently retired head teachers, education professors and business people. They might be employed as private companies and "could look after one school or several".

Mr Forth said that ministers did not expect any trouble over recruitment, but his optimism rests on the assumption that few schools will be taken over. He admits that there could be a problem if the number of failing schools has been underestimated.

Ministers believe that the threat of a takeover — "the sound of my boys' boots on the gravel", as one puts it — will be enough to spur governors and authorities into action.

Schools fail, page 1
Leading article, page 17

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Soloist protests at 'hastily conceived policy that threatens livelihood of performers'

Evelyn Glennie quits Arts Council over super-orchestra

BY ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

EVELYN Glennie, the solo percussionist, resigned from the Arts Council's music panel yesterday as it met to discuss the future of three London orchestras.

Her deeply-felt protest at proposals to withdraw funding from two orchestras stunned other members of the panel who heard the Hoffmann committee recommendations under conditions of top secrecy.

Ms Glennie's resignation adds further controversy to the Arts Council's competition between the Philharmonia, the Royal Philharmonic and the London Philharmonic orchestras. It is intended that the winner receive "enhanced" funding — becoming the capital's second "super-orchestra" alongside the London Symphony Orchestra — while the two losers face withdrawal of subsidy and possible closure.

Shortly after the competition was announced in July, the Arts Council appointed an independent committee under Sir Leonard Hoffmann to scrutinise oral and written evidence submitted by the three orchestras.

But the Hoffmann report is thought to have recommended that far more time be granted for a review of greater depth and scope. It will say that proposals to withdraw funding as soon as April are unfair and a logistic nightmare.

It is not known whether one orchestra has been singled out as the winner, or whether this proved an impossible task.

The six committee members, from an international range of musical establishments, compiled their report after two days assessment of each orchestra. The pressure was great and misgivings about the process were expressed by most.

Sir Leonard wrote to the Musicians' Union, which has protested at the competition: "I would, if anything, be relieved if the result of your efforts was that no action was taken upon any recommendations we may make."

The music panel, chaired by Bryan Magee, the Oxford philosopher, will send its comments on the Hoffmann report to a meeting of the full Arts Council in 11 days, when a final decision be made.

Ms Glennie, 28, who has become a leading and much-loved performer despite total deafness, issued a statement expressing unhappiness with "the proposed policy and the method adopted by the Arts Council for its implementation". She was "unable to countenance so hastily conceived a policy which will threaten the livelihood of performers today and restrict opportunities for young musicians and for the public in the future".

Ms Glennie's husband, Greg Malcangi, a sound engineer, said that she was deeply upset by the Arts Council's treatment of its voluntary advisers. The plans had not been made fully clear to her, and it was only on returning from a tour of India that she had understood the implications of the proposals, he said.

In Ms Glennie's view there should be "a calm, measured public debate to evaluate all the complex issues involved".

Her statement echoes the many protests made since the competition was announced, including that of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, the composer, who threatened to renounce his knighthood.

But none of the protests has yet swayed the Arts Council. Anthony Everitt, secretary general, said the rationale behind the competition was based on artistic standards rather than a financial squeeze.

Letters, page 17



Evelyn Glennie, the percussionist, is deeply upset by the Arts Council's treatment of its voluntary advisers

Repossessed Levitt home is sold for £1.5 million

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

ROGER LEVITT'S former home has been sold for £1.5 million. He bought the property, in Highgate, north London, 12 years ago for an estimated £150,000. It is now four times the size, and features include eight bedrooms and seven bathrooms.

Last week Levitt was sentenced to 180 hours' community service at Southwark Crown Court after admitting lying to City regulators about the state of his investment group, which collapsed with debts of £34 million.

The failed financier's departure — at the request of the mortgagees in possession — provided business for estate agent Trevor Abrahmsohn, who sold Asil Nadir's house in the same neighbourhood. Mr Abrahmsohn's firm has sold 11 of the 12 repossessions in the area in recent years.

"The common factor is that these people had to have important-looking houses to enhance their power and status," said Mr Abrahmsohn. "As soon as their businesses became over-extended they started borrowing more and more until they couldn't pay their loans back."

The house was originally put on the market earlier this year for £2.75 million. Levitt has moved to St John's Wood, also in north London, where yesterday he was evading newspaper reporters who are seeking to discover where he is performing his community service order.

LAPHROAIG



FAR AND AWAY THE MOST DISTINCTIVE MALT WHISKY.



PEAT SMOKE, SOFT RAIN AND SEA AIR.
WOVEN TOGETHER IN SOME MYSTERIOUS ALCHEMY.

Abductor's cash frozen by court

THE assets of a wealthy businessman who snatched his 12-year-old son from his mother's home in France nearly a month ago were yesterday ordered frozen by the High Court.

Sequestration of Peter Malkin's assets will follow after an application by the Official Solicitor in an effort to force the return of the boy, Oliver.

Peter Harris, acting in the boy's interests, was granted an order for the seizure of all the assets of Mr Malkin, 54, including bank accounts, the Bridge Place Country Club at Canterbury, Kent, and an empty hotel at Churston Ferrers, on the outskirts of Brixham, Devon.

Mr Harris said later that he hoped the move would bring home to Mr Malkin that he must comply with court orders to return Oliver to his ex-wife, Eliza Pridmore, 36, of Landevant, Brittany.

Oliver was snatched — for the third time — by his father and a gang of helpers on November 8 as he stepped off a school bus near his home in France.

Despite massive publicity, many reported sightings and repeated questioning of Mr Malkin's business associates, police and court officials are no nearer to finding him.

Hurd tells Turks of concern over fans

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

DOUGLAS Hurd has intervened on behalf of 50 Manchester United football fans who claim they were maltreated by the Turkish authorities last month.

The foreign secretary has sent details of the complaints to the Turkish ambassador and has demanded an urgent response.

More than 170 fans and other British visitors were held by Turkish police on the day that Manchester United played an away European Cup fixture with Turkey's Galatasary. Six were detained for three weeks in prison before being released on Tuesday.

Other fans who were deported from Turkey have detailed brutal treatment by the local police. One 71-year-old man said he was dragged from his hotel bed in the early hours and detained by the police without food or water. A deaf woman of 51 has claimed she was similarly treated.

David Heathcoat-Amory, the Foreign Office minister, yesterday disclosed in a written Commons answer that the British ambassador in Ankara has also pressed the Turkish authority for an early report on the arrests. The Turkish authorities have promised to hold a judicial enquiry into the incident next Wednesday.

Alf Morris, Labour MP for Manchester Wythenshawe, yesterday pressed the government to demand compensation from the Turkish government for the injuries and financial losses caused. "Some of them spent £300 to go, and did not see one bit of the match."

Mr Morris said feelings were running high in the North because of "the abuse and maltreatment" meted out to fans. "What people are saying in Manchester is that if British people treated Turkish visitors with one tenth of the brutality there would have been a hell of a row," he said.



Hurd: wants urgent Ankara response

Theatre teaches the church a lesson in communication

Credo

Rob Marshall

The Great Panto Guide was published in *The Times* this week. The season of giants, dames, witches, genies and fairy queens is upon us.

As a chaplain with the Actors' Church Union, I find the theatre world a fascinating place. It is a world where people offer enormous talent and where others come to be entertained, challenged, uplifted and to learn about life and living.

The connection between Christianity and the theatre exists at many levels and is worth exploring further. In Greek and Roman terms, the theatre was the focus of the community. People gathered for news, information and entertainment. They were challenged and educated by what they experienced. Despite the advent of radio and television, the same is basically true today.

Most theatre is theological. There is something of God, or the absence of God, about bringing people together in body and spirit, whenever the lights are dimmed. Love, sex, wealth, good, evil, comedy, tragedy, jealousy; all the world is there. Faith and spirituality are constantly being analysed, challenged and reassessed.

This should also be true of all worshipping communities. But sadly it is not always the case. Do people feel engaged, challenged or even "entertained" when they enter a church? Very often they feel confused, bewildered, lost and uncertain.

Worship is about expressing our love of God, our shortcomings, need for forgiveness, desire for a fresh start. In church we use the word, the sacraments, symbols, light, music, glass, robes, candles to bring God close to people. But do we generally succeed in engaging them and challenging them?

During the West End run of the musical *City of Angels*, which I saw 17 times, I would frequently look around the theatre and observe people's faces. The mixture of emotions was amazing: laughter, joy, shock, surprise, horror, delight and fear. The stage lighting, music and whole sense of occasion would engage people endlessly in a fun experience which sent them back into a packed Piccadilly Circus with a new experience in their minds and hearts. The task of the churches is to communicate the words and works of Jesus in a challenging and engaging way: the drama of the story of Jesus, his marvellous discourses and great sayings, his message of salvation, the transfiguration, the final week, resurrection and ascension.

The Gospel is an experience which people need to hear again and again. The drama of the Gospel is a drama for today. It does address key questions about life and death, about the present and the future.

But the churches still have some way to go towards bridging the gap between God and his people. Many in our communities need to be engaged and challenged to respond with joy to the Gospel.

All the world is in the Gospel, too — along with God's ability to deal with the folly and failure of much of what makes up that world.

The church needs to be constantly reassessing how it communicates the drama of salvation. And we need to be open during this Advent season to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Rob Marshall is Communications Officer in the Diocese of London

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More children are being left at home alone warns NSPCC

By Jeremy Laurance
Social Services Correspondent

■ Lack of legal guidelines on the ages at which youngsters can be left unsupervised is leading to confusion among parents

CONCERN about the growing numbers of babies and young children being left alone and unsupervised by their parents is putting increased pressure on child protection agencies, a leading charity said yesterday.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said calls made to its helpline by people worried about youngsters left at home alone averaged 60 a month and were steadily increasing.

"There are growing pressures on parents and it is an issue close to the heart of family life at the moment," said Jim Harding, director of children's services at the NSPCC.

"Parents need to go out and earn money and there are large numbers of single parents managing on their own. Family networks are more dispersed so it is more difficult to find an aunt or a granny to provide support," he said.

Cases cited by the society include that of two children aged five and six left on their own at 7am every day. They had to dress themselves, go to school alone, come home and feed and look after themselves until their parents returned at 10pm.

In another case, an eight-year-old girl was left alone every Sunday night from 10pm by her parents, who both worked night shifts.

Mr Harding said there was widespread ignorance of the law, which does not specify an age — popularly thought to be 14 — at which children may be left alone. "We hear a whole range of surprising views from parents and it is hard to say where they come from," he said.

The law says parents may be prosecuted for wilful neglect if they leave a child unsupervised "in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health", but does not state an age.

Chris Brown, director of the NSPCC, said being left alone could be a frightening experience. "As they get older some children may show themselves able to cope for short periods of time. But we believe risks are never worth taking and when in doubt, play safe."

To help parents, the NSPCC published a leaflet yesterday highlighting the dangers children face and giving guidance on appropriate ages to leave children alone.

The leaflet says babysitters should preferably be aged over 16. The law does not state an age at which people can babysit, but no one under the age of 16 can be charged with neglect or ill-treatment of a child left in their care. Parents remain responsible and could be charged themselves should any harm come to their child.

ADVICE TO PARENTS

THE leaflet *Home alone: advice for parents* says:

☐ Babies and young children should never be left alone, even when asleep and even for a few minutes.

☐ Most children under 13 are not mature enough to cope with an emergency and should not be left alone for more than a very short time.

☐ If children do have to be left alone they should be given clear intstructions about what to do if there is a problem. They should be given a list of people to contact in an emergency and obvious dangers such as medicines and matches should be put out of reach.

☐ Even when leaving teenagers alone, parents should ensure they are happy about the arrangement and know who to phone in an emergency.

☐ No young person, under at least 16, should be left alone overnight.

Badly fitted child seats increase death risk

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

THOUSANDS of children could be at risk of death or injury in child seats that have been badly fitted.

Motoring organizations said yesterday that the manufacture and fitting of child seats had escaped legislation and that the seats might not be as safe as parents believed.

Even after parents had bought seats conforming to standards, they might unwittingly fit the seats wrongly.

The warnings came after the inquest into the deaths of Christopher and Matthew Key. The four-month-old twins suffered fractured skulls when their parents' car crashed on a country road in Oxfordshire in September even though they were strapped into safety seats.

Christopher, who weighed 9lb, was thrown out of his chair and was found later in the boot while Matthew is thought to have been injured when his head hit the unpadded winged sides of his seat. The inquest raised fears that child seats might be badly designed and unable to save children from injury.

The RAC urged parents not to abandon child seats and disclosed that its own tests showed that most worked well if properly fitted and if designed for children of the correct age and weight.

Government regulations give little help to parents to choose correct seats and manufacturers' fitting instructions are sometimes confusing.

The inquest on Thursday was told that Trevor Key, the twins' father, had fitted new baby seats the wrong way round, facing forward in the rear seat instead of facing backwards. The coroner decided that the wrong fitting did not play a part in the death of the twins.

The Consumers' Association said yesterday that a 1990 survey showed that half of all seats were wrongly fitted.

The RAC said: "We travel the country and have discovered people buying very expensive seats but fitting them wrongly and belting them up in an uncorrect way. No matter how well the seats are made, there is no control over the way they are fitted. We have even seen a child seat stuck onto a rear car seat with Velcro."

The RAC is seeking ways to have fitting by specialists carried out cheaply, probably in approved garage workshops.

The Consumers' Association warned parents to be certain of what they were buying and to go back to the store if they were unsure of fitting. Laura Simons, senior campaigns officer, said: "This is an area plagued by uncertainty. We have been concerned about this issue for some time and we are worried that well-meaning parents are sometimes defeated by the the fitting instructions."

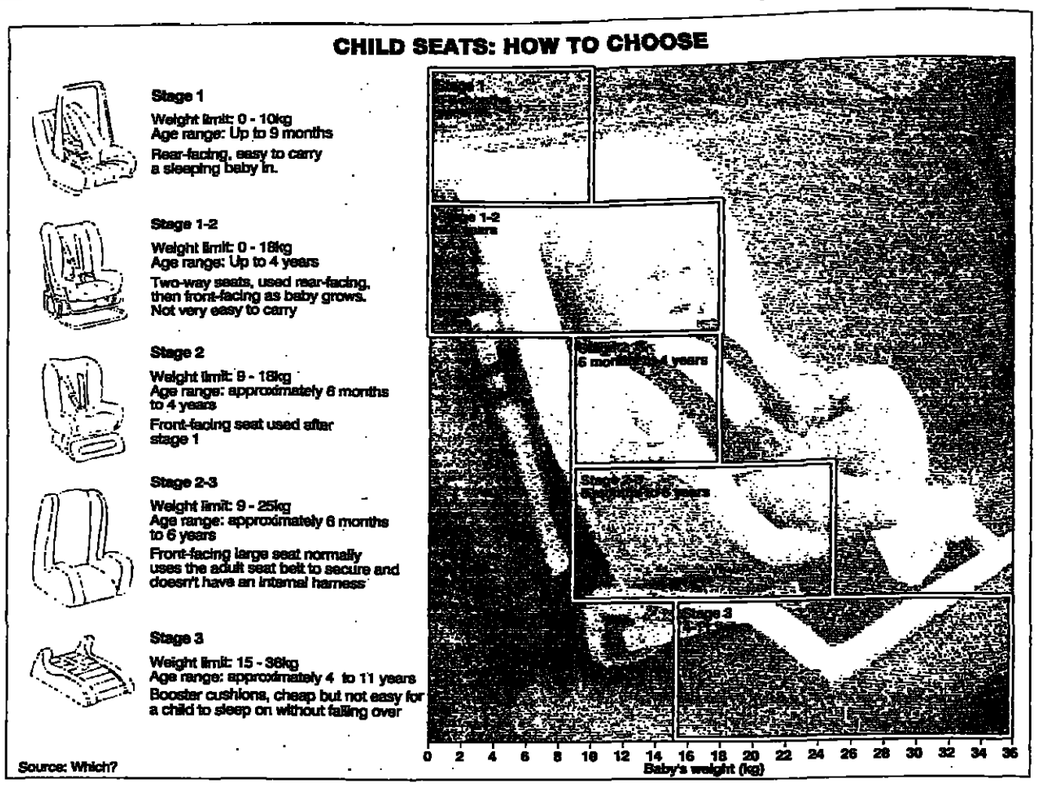
Even before new regulations due in the new year, Ms Simons urged manufacturers to adopt better standards, including colour coding to show parents where to run rear seat-belts through child seats for maximum effect.

The association tested 23 seats recently and discovered that only eight fitted happily into the rear seats of modern cars when restrained by seat belts. It said that babies up to the weight of 10kg should be in full baby seats facing rearwards.

Which? magazine recommends: for babies up to 10kg, Klippan Carrytot (£40) and Mothercare Baby Travel (£39); 10-25kg, or children aged up to six, AA Euroseat (£50) or Britax Cruiser (£53); 15-36kg, aged from 4 to 11, Britax Star-Riser (£15).

☐ Government ministers were last night condemned for failing to set an example by wearing rear safety belts when they travel in their chauffeur-driven official cars.

The criticism by Edmund King, campaigns manager of the RAC, came days before a new television advertising campaign by the transport department. Adults have been required to wear belts in the rear of cars since 1991.



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Britain rolls out its red carpet for the footloose Mr Gorbachev

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

FORMER president Mikhail Gorbachev will arrive in Aberdeen tomorrow at the start of a six-day visit to Britain in which he will be feted with honours, awards and the attention of John Major and other prominent politicians, past and present.

Making his second visit to Britain since he left office in 1991, the former Soviet leader and his wife Raisa will be treated with all the honours normally reserved for an important head of state. He will deliver lectures in Scotland, London, Oxford and Bristol; he will be Baroness Thatcher's guest for a luncheon at the Thatcher Foundation; and he will have talks with Mr Major over lunch in Downing Street on Wednesday.

Mr Gorbachev has been invited to the House of Commons for a reception on Tuesday, after which he will take part in a two-hour session of questions in Central Hall, Westminister, where he will be joined on a panel by Lord Healey, Lord Howe of Aberavon and Sir David Steel.

The high point of his tour will probably come on Wednesday evening, when Mr Gorbachev will be the guest of honour at a Guildhall banquet in the City of London, where he will receive the Sir Winston Churchill award in recognition of his contribution to peace in the Middle East.

His first engagement is in Aberdeen tomorrow evening, when he delivers the first Aberdeen Peace Lecture. He receives the freedom of the city on Monday and then in Edinburgh will be given lunch by John Smith, the Labour leader, and his wife Elizabeth.

Public interest will inevitably focus on Mr Gorbachev's meeting with Lady Thatcher. The intensity of their political relationship was one of the paradoxes of the time when both were in office.

Lady Thatcher has made no secret of her admiration for the former Soviet leader's courage in trying to reform his country. She has often boasted that it was her initial meeting with Mr Gorbachev, before he became party leader and when she spoke of her ability to "do business" with him, that launched him on the world stage.

Mr Gorbachev, who can now command huge sums in America for his speaking engagements, will also have a meeting with Howard Davis, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, and will visit the Cancer in Children Trust in Bristol.

On all his visits abroad, he has sought to raise money for the victims of Chernobyl, the nuclear accident in Ukraine that happened while he was the Soviet leader.


Gorbachev: enduring popularity in Britain

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

World junior championship

Britain's Matthew Sadler lost his last round game, thus finishing with 8.5 points out of 13 possible. The championship was won Miladinovich (from the former Yugoslavia) who scored 9.5 points. Top scores were: Igor Miladinovich 9.5 points; Vlastimil Babula (Czech Republic), Sergei Rublevsky (Russia) and Alexander Onishuk (Ukraine) all 9 points. The girls championship was won by Nino Khurtsidze of Georgia who scored 10.5 points out of 13.

Karpov wins Tilburg

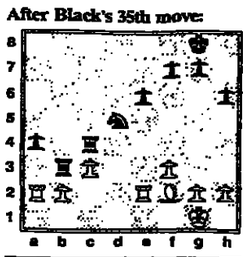
The first two games of the final in the Tilburg knockout tournament were drawn. £40,000 is the prize for the winner. The players then moved into a rapid chess tie-break, which Karpov won with a win and a draw. We join the first game of the final just as Karpov makes a breakthrough which brought him close to victory. Thereafter, only superb defence by Ivanchuk, who was a pawn down, saved the game.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Tilburg Final, 1993

Caro-Kann Defence

36	g3	e3
37	fxe3	Rxe3
38	bxa3	Rxc3
39	Ra2	Rxf3
40	e4	Nb4
41	Ra1	Na6
42	a5	Kf8
43	Kg2	Rf5
44	g4	Rg5
45	Kf3	h5
46	h3	Rb5
47	Ra3	Ke7
48	Be3	f6
49	Kg3	hxg4
50	hxg4	e5
51	Kf3	g6
52	Kg3	Ke6
53	Kf3	f5
54	Rc3	Kd5
55	Rd3+	Ke6
56	Rc3	Kd5
57	Rd3+	Kc6
58	Rc3+	Kb7
59	Bb6	Rb4
60	gxf5	gxf5
61	Bc8	Rd4
62	Rb3+	Kc8
63	Bf6	Rd5
64	Rb6	Nc7
65	a6	Kd7
66	a7	e4+
67	Kf4	Ra5
68	a8Q	Nxa8
69	Rb7+	Ke6
70	Bd8	Draw egreed

After Black's 35th move:



Winning move, Weekend, page 18
Raymond Keene, Magazine, page 92

THE TIMES
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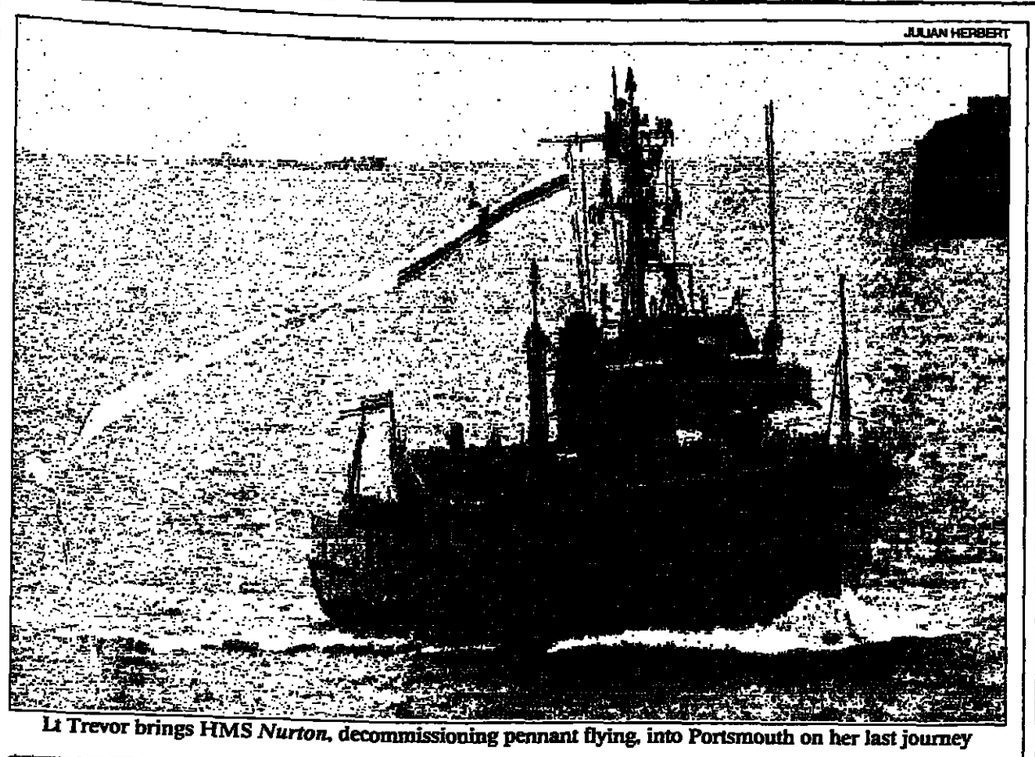
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JULIAN HERBERT

Lt Trevor brings HMS *Nurton*, decommissioning pennant flying, into Portsmouth on her last journey



End of a wooden era

THE Royal Navy's last sea-going wooden vessel sailed into Portsmouth's naval dockyards yesterday on her final voyage. The mine-sweeper HMS *Nurton* was due for an honourable discharge at the end of a 37-year career.

Lieutenant Mark Trevor, 28, her commander, said: "It's a rather sad day really — the end of an era. As the last operational wooden warship, she has got her place in history. The navy will not see the likes of her again."

The ship had been nicknamed "The Duracell" by her crew, because she kept going on and on, but a 50ft decommissioning pennant signalled that she had finally "gone flat" in military eyes.

HMS *Nurton* was constructed with a teak hull to minimise the danger from magnetic mines. The navy now uses glass reinforced plastic to combat the threat.

The minesweeper, built in Belfast in 1957, made the 2,400-mile round trip to Gibraltar in July and her final trip was a return from patrol duties with the Northern Ireland squadron.

The 420-tonne vessel, crewed by 33 seamen and officers, is now up for sale. However, defence ministry officials would not disclose the asking price.

Prostitute blackmailed solicitor

A RETIRED solicitor was blackmailed by a prostitute into paying her more than £10,000, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

The 65-year-old man, named only as Mr X, had been paying for sex sessions with Julie Stephens, 33, for about ten years when she told him that someone had taken compromising photographs and wanted £12,000 for the negatives. Mr X was threatened into handing over more than £10,000 and promising to raise a further £80,000.

Stephens, of Islington, north London, admitted blackmail and obtaining property by deception. She was sentenced to two years' probation, providing that she spent one year at a special unit. She told police that she was addicted to drugs.

The court was told that Mr X rarely had sexual intercourse with Stephens because he suffered from Parkinson's disease. He became fond of her and is said to bear her no malice.

After paying over an initial £6,000, Mr X was threatened into paying more by David Potter, 23, an escaped prisoner. He paid over more cash and parted with the keys and documents to his car.

He was finally persuaded by his nephew to go to the police, who arrested Stephens as she received a mock payment. Potter, who was arrested later, admitted blackmail. His case was adjourned.

MI5 agent 'foiled terrorist plot to blow up colonel'

BY RICHARD DUCE

AN MI5 agent at the centre of a bombing conspiracy trial foiled an earlier terrorist plot to assassinate a senior army officer, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Patrick Daly, who is giving evidence against two Irishmen alleged to have planned a mainland bombing campaign this year, said he had been instrumental in trapping terrorists who planned to blow up a Colonel Batty.

Mr Daly, 44, said that as an undercover agent for Special Branch while living in Bristol, he had informed on a man called Peter Jordan who was later jailed.

More details of the double life of Mr Daly, who has been paid £400,000 to establish a new life and identity, emerged yesterday during his fourth day of evidence, from behind a screen, against Martin McMonagle and Liam Hefernan, who are alleged to be members of the Irish National Liberation Army.

Mr McMonagle, 31, from Limerick, and Mr Heffernan, 31, from Belfast, deny conspiring to cause explosions with intent to endanger life, conspiring to steal and possession of a firearm.

Under cross-examination from Rock Tansey QC, for Mr McMonagle, Mr Daly admitted that he had gone on a reconnaissance mission to Col Batty's home but denied that he was carrying a gun at the time. He also denied that he had agreed to collect explosives from Liverpool Docks.

Mr Tansey has attempted to establish that Mr Daly was acting as an *agent provocateur* for MI5 and was sent to Ireland to infiltrate the INLA. He was to lure an active service unit into an armed trap at a Somerset quarry from where, it is claimed, they planned to steal explosives for a bombing campaign in February this year.

Mr Daly claims he was not recruited by MI5 until he resettled near Galway in 1989 after leaving Bristol, where from 1974 he had acted as a Special Branch informer on potential terrorist activity.

He denied that he was a close friend of Jordan when he betrayed him to police. "The man was trying to gather information to assassinate people. Of course, I informed the police," he said.

Mr Tansey then produced more than 50 letters and cards written by Mr Daly to Jordan in prison expressing his friendship and his involvement in a campaign to try to secure his early release.

Mr Daly said: "It was part of my cover. I wasn't going to put myself in danger and possibly get shot. Whatever I wrote in the letters here I used as a cover to protect myself."

Mr Daly admitted that he had become Bristol branch secretary of an organisation known as the Irish In Britain Group and had also been involved in "troops out" demonstrations in the 1970s. He also said he had spoken publicly against the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr McMonagle and Mr Heffernan planned to use explosives stolen from the quarry at Westbury-sub-Mendip for a bombing campaign aimed at MPs, a ferry, and oil and gas refineries.

A third member of the INLA, Anthony Gorman, is said to have escaped the police trap and disappeared into fog after Mr McMonagle trod on a concealed police officer, forcing the trap to be sprung prematurely.

Mr Daly has told the court that using his republican political credentials, he infiltrated the INLA to discover the plan.

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Divorce 'DIY pack' on sale

BY ROBIN YOUNG

PEOPLE who want to divorce can now buy a "do it yourself" pack, which went on sale for the first time yesterday.

The pack, devised by Eagle Legal Forms and costing £9.99, is available exclusively through W. H. Smith, which said it was not encouraging divorce but providing an opportunity to make the law readily available to everyone.

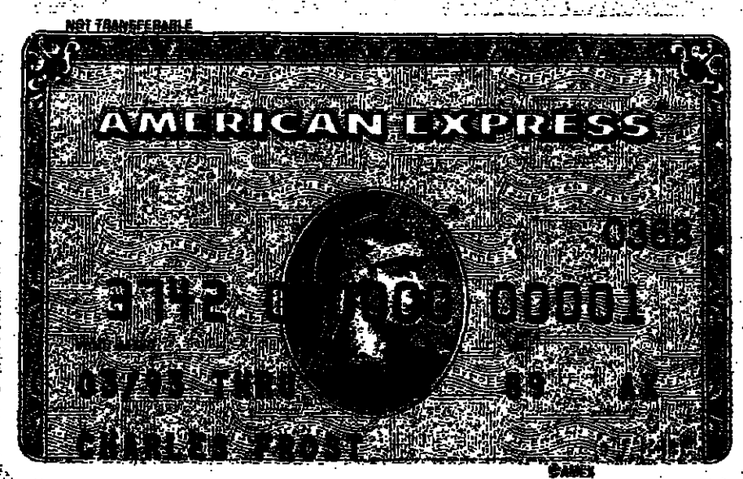
The pack has an instruction book and examples of all the forms needed to obtain a divorce. It will be updated to keep abreast of legal changes.

It carries a disclaimer which says that the retailer and the publisher take no responsibility for mistakes or misunderstandings, and will not accept liability for "financial loss, personal disappointment, distress or other loss or damage".

Christopher Heron, of Eagle Legal Forms, said: "Legal aid is virtually out of reach for anyone not on social security or supplementary benefit, so some people simply cannot afford to pay the legal bills."

The pack was not intended to replace legal advice and was not suited for complicated circumstances. "It can be used in conjunction with a solicitor to cut legal fees."

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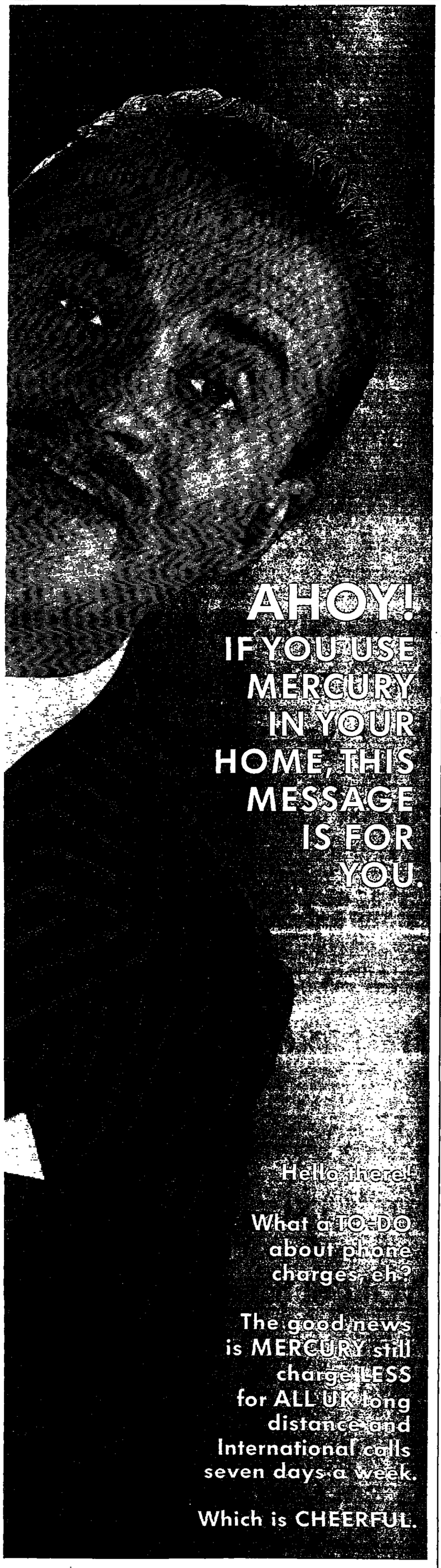
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Smash hit for Jaguar's screen stars

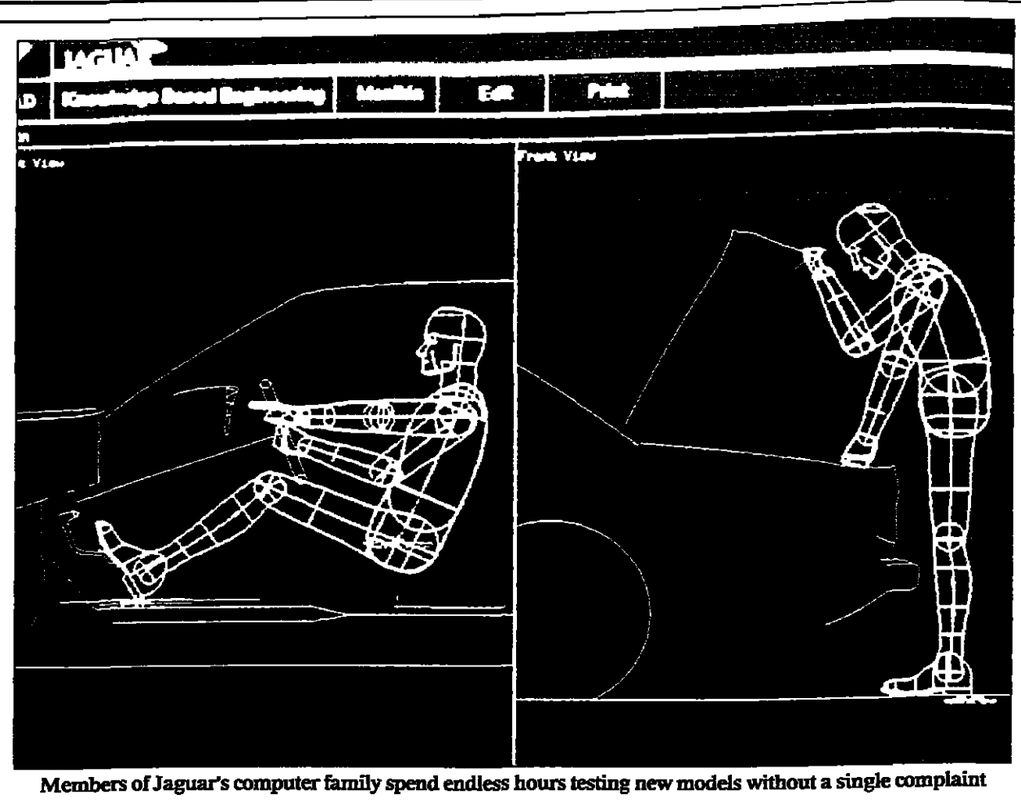
BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

JAGUAR engineers are using a Nintendo-style computer video game to design the company's new generation of cars.

Instead of using real people to test the comfort and efficiency of their new models, Jaguar is employing computer people to carry out thousands of tests. Engineers can make their screen family switch on the controls, open doors and check the spare wheel.

The system, known as Knowledge Based Engineering and devised by ICAD Engineering Automation in Coventry, West Midlands, has proved so successful at Jaguar it has been sold to Boeing and General Motors.

Clive Emmos, Jaguar's director of product engineering, said: "Computer people never tire of trying different seat and instrument layouts. They are always ready to learn new tasks."



Members of Jaguar's computer family spend endless hours testing new models without a single complaint

Drink-drive adverts soften their image

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

■ Concern that putting death on the screen is not the best way to keep it off the roads has led to a new Christmas TV campaign

THE government has decided to switch tactics in its annual Christmas campaign against drink-driving by dispensing with the shock tactics of recent years and instead using heart-rending advertisements aimed at the public's emotions.

In another change, Scotland Yard will hold a shorter blitz on drink-drivers this year instead of its usual four-week campaign in London and parts of the home counties.

This year's national campaign will be dominated by a typical family scene that includes an empty chair. A girl tells her relatives that her boy friend has popped out for a quick drink, but she then learns he will never return. The image of a blazing Christmas pudding is transformed into a burning car and the message stresses how one quick drink can cause death.

Robert Key, the roads minister, will unveil details of the campaign, which is expected to cost more than £1 million, in London on Tuesday. The new tactics follow two years of harrowing television advertisements showing police dealing with a drunk motorist who had killed a woman and a member of the emergency services trying in vain to save a young female crash victim.

The change follows concern that putting death on the screen is not the best way to keep it off the roads. "The department is moving away from blood and gore to a softer image," said a member of the campaign team.

"One of the problems with going over the top with harrowing images is that people do not associate themselves with it. The danger in the tough approach is that it can seem too far removed from their experiences."

Drink-drive campaigns, involving thousands of traffic officers, begin throughout England and Wales on December 19 and end on January 1. In London the campaign will be the top priority for 7,000 police officers in the traffic branch. Under the slogan, "Plan ahead if you are going to drink and drive", the campaign will involve spot checks in the capital and breathalysing any driver involved in an accident.

But other demands on a policeman's time have forced Scotland Yard to reduce the campaign's length. "The amount of men and resources devoted to traffic is shrinking. There are a lot of other demands on police forces, such as violent crime and burglary," said Chief Supt Kevin Delaney, of the Metropolitan police's traffic branch.

He said the campaign had also been shortened to give it a higher profile, to encourage officers to put in greater effort and to sustain its momentum.

Britain goes it alone on pollution treaty

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A EUROPEAN plan to share the burden of cutting emissions that cause global warming was in disarray yesterday. Environment ministers failed to agree on joint ratification of a UN treaty.

Later, Britain announced it would ratify on its own the Framework Climate Change Convention, agreed at the Earth Summit in Brazil last year. At least four other countries, including Germany, The Netherlands and France, are expected to follow.

Critics accused the government of sacrificing a chance to make a bigger contribution to the environment through a European Community plan in favour of narrow national interests.

Tim Yeo, the environment minister, told the House of Commons after flying back from Brussels that since the Budget, Britain had the programmes to stabilise its carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by 2000.

Britain needs to cut emissions by 10 million tonnes, which it proposes to do by a mixture of energy saving grants to low income homes, VAT on fuel bills and progressive rises in petrol taxes.

A joint EC ratification of the convention would require wealthier member states, such as Britain, to make bigger cuts in carbon dioxide emissions to offset the higher emissions of poorer states such as Portugal, Ireland and Greece.

A Community-wide carbon or energy tax was supported by Germany, The Netherlands and Denmark in Brussels, but opposed by Britain. Mr Yeo said any Community proposal on an energy tax needed to take into account individual member states' own tax strategies.

The minister agreed that it would have been more desirable if all member states could have ratified at the same time.

The Community's failure to ratify makes it unlikely that Ireland, Greece and Portugal will be able to ratify the treaty on their own. Simon Roberts, energy campaigner at Friends of the Earth, said Britain's inflexibility would send a message that richer nations "could not care less about burden sharing".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Baby was shaken to death

A man was jailed for life yesterday for the murder of a 20-month-old boy. Stephen Haines, 26, shook the child so violently as to make his brain "swish about almost like a blancmange", Leeds Crown Court was told.

Shane Williams, of Upton, West Yorkshire, died after a brain haemorrhage. Haines, who was living with the boy's mother, denied murder and claimed that the boy had stopped breathing while he was being bathed.

Guy Whitburn QC, for the prosecution, said that Shane's injuries were consistent with slaps or blows to the head.

Girls raped

Police are hunting rapists who attacked two teenagers in separate incidents on Thursday night. A girl aged 15 was gagged and raped as she walked her dog in Romiley, Greater Manchester. A 17-year-old was raped while walking home in Greetland, West Yorkshire.

Eviction fight

Dolly Kiffin, community leader of the Broadwater Farm estate, north London, intends to contest an order evicting her from her council flat for rent arrears of £15,000. She claims that Haringey council owes her an equal amount in wages.

Sent for trial

Brian Vale, 44, of Bethnal Green, east London, was committed for trial at the Old Bailey by magistrates in Camberwell. He is charged with the murder of Dr Ann Mead, 35.

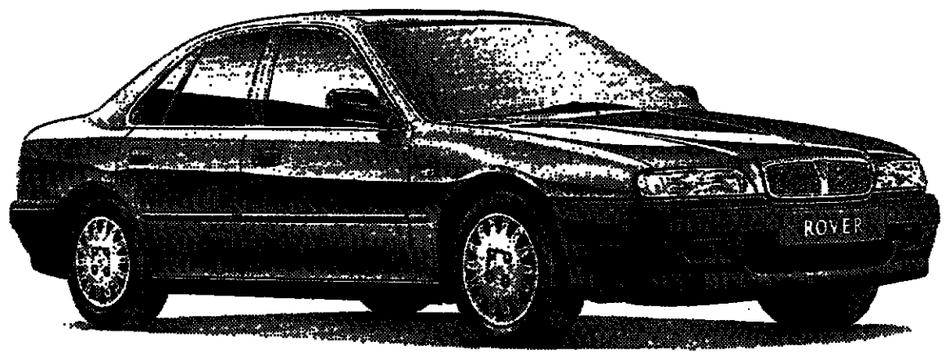
Treehouse fire

Two youths were arrested after a gang set fire to a treehouse in Wanstead, east London, occupied by protesters against the M11 link road. The protesters and the tree were unharmed.

Kidnap ordeal

A postman was dumped unharmed after being kidnapped during a robbery in Rubery, West Midlands.

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TOK... هكذا من الأصل

Tearful Medellín treasures memories of a benefactor as its most infamous son is buried

Colombia ready for war against second drug city

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MEDELLÍN

HARD as it was for many Colombians to believe, Medellín yesterday witnessed the funeral of its most infamous son, Pablo Escobar, the drug lord once thought to be invincible. Buried with him were the bitter memories of a painful, bloody chapter in the history of this long-suffering "city of eternal spring," set in a warm valley in the Andes mountains.

While Escobar's death was the cause of national relief and celebration, in Medellín mourners flocked to his graveside, evidence of the considerable affection with which he is remembered and the support he still enjoys in the poor neighbourhoods where he grew up and in his heyday was often a generous benefactor of social projects. "They killed my son. My son wanted peace for this country and they didn't let him," Hermilda Escobar, his grieving mother, said.

Photographs of Escobar's bullet-ridden body dominated the front pages of Colombian newspapers. He was unrecognisable from the man who once terrorised this nation. His corpulent figure, long hair, shaggy beard and cropped Hitler-style moustache looked pitiable laid out on the mortuary slab. But as the nation's attention was focused on the funeral in the outskirts of Escobar's home town, drug experts were looking at the next target in Colombia's drug war: Cali, a city to the southwest and home of the country's other main drug cartel, source of much of the cocaine destined for new markets in Europe.

"The struggle against terrorism in Colombia is not over. We have an enormous task ahead of us," President Gaviria said in an address to the nation, clearly with Cali on his mind.

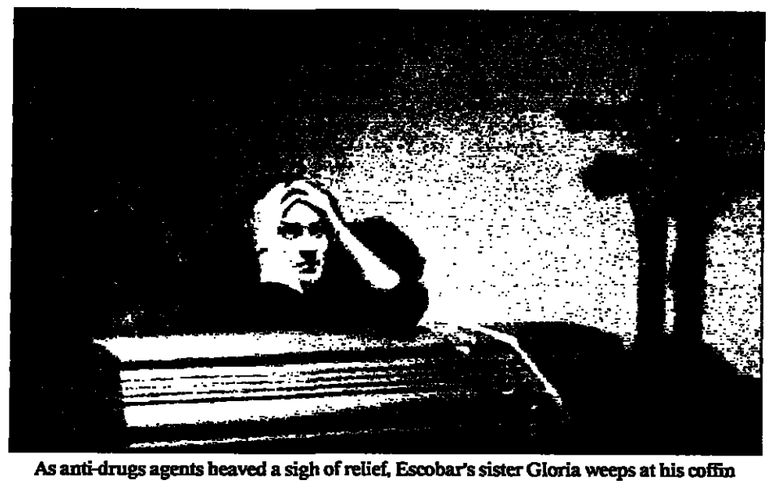
During a huge 16-month manhunt for Escobar, who had escaped from jail last year, police efforts have disarticulated and now decapitated the structure of the Medellín cartel, once a multi-billion-dollar empire and the biggest drugs business in the world. While police have concentrated their efforts in the drug war on Medellín, experts say the Cali cartel has prospered. That could now be about to change. There have already been whispers that members of the Cali cartel may be considering surrender under new, generous terms being offered by the government.

As Medellín prepared for the funeral the city remained surprisingly calm, as if many people could still not comprehend the death of Escobar. Some challenged the government's official story, claiming that Escobar had been gunned down in cold blood by police officers with a mission to kill, not capture, the drug lord. According to the government's version, Escobar opened fire first on police who had surrounded his safe house. The police returned fire and Escobar was killed instantly by at least seven bullets, four in the head.

Last night Gustavo de Greiff, Colombia's chief prosecutor, whose task it will now be to prosecute the remaining cartel leaders, issued a warning. "The best thing the criminals can do is turn themselves over to the courts. If they don't, they will end up like Pablo Escobar."



Colombian police and troops clambering over Pablo Escobar's hideout in Medellín before the rooftop battle which resulted in his death



As anti-drugs agents heaved a sigh of relief, Escobar's sister Gloria weeps at his coffin

Barons of Cali fill dead man's shoes

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

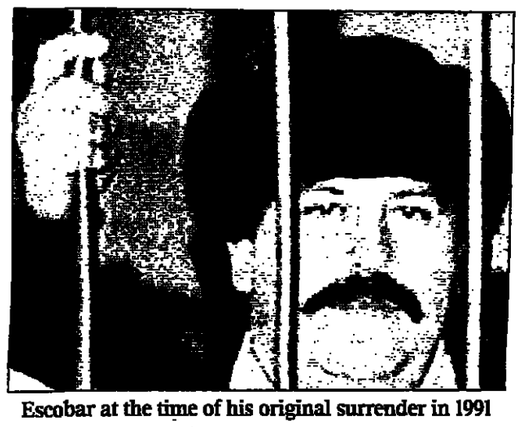
PRESIDENT Clinton congratulated President Gaviria on the killing of Pablo Escobar, but experts agreed that the drug lord's death would have negligible impact on the flow of cocaine to America and Europe.

They said the rival Cali cartel had long since eclipsed Escobar's Medellín organisation — which disintegrated during his time in jail and in hiding — and is now responsible for up to four-fifths of Colombia's cocaine exports.

The Cali cartel, led by Gilberto Rodríguez Orejuela, has eschewed open confrontation with the government; bribery, not terror, is its preferred modus operandi. A US official called the Cali cartel "perhaps the most sophisticated criminal organisation in the world".

Britain contributed to the efforts to hunt down Escobar. Since 1989 it has given more than £9 million in non-lethal equipment, technical assistance and training.

Vicious killer was venerated as a Robin Hood by the poor



Escobar at the time of his original surrender in 1991

BY DAVID ADAMS

PABLO Escobar, the chief of the Medellín drug cartel, fancied himself as a heroic outlaw and the victim of a hypocritical society.

An outcast all his adult life, he died in a shoot-out with Colombian police on Thursday, the day after his 44th birthday. Until his death he was one of the richest and most flamboyant criminals in the world as well as one of the most wanted.

Some remained loyal to him until the end. To many poor Colombians he was a Robin Hood who poisoned the rich with his drugs and distributed at least part of his vast wealth to the slum poor in his home town.

He was also venerated by many of the poor for defiantly taking on a state apparatus that had failed to provide for their basic needs, nowhere more so than in Medellín, where the beneficiaries of his largesse are proud of their association with him. They include local football teams and the occupants of 460 homes that he built in the 1980s for slum-dwellers.

To most Colombians, however, he was a sociopathic "narco-terrorist" conducting a vicious campaign to bend the government to his will. By conservative estimate, he was responsible for assassinations and bombings that left more than 1,000 civilians and 500 police dead.

The son of a farmer and a teacher, he began his life of crime as a car thief but soon entered the nascent drug trade and rose to become head of the world's largest drug business. In its heyday, the Medellín cartel supplied an estimated 60 per cent of the cocaine sold on America's streets. Escobar made the *Forbes Magazine* list of the world's wealthiest people in 1989 with an estimated $3 billion (£2 billion) fortune. "They said this guy was richer than Ross Perot and more powerful than Genghis Khan. They said he was invincible," said William Bennett, George Bush's drug "czar".

The drug cartels became so influential that they transformed Colombia's monetary system. The repatriation of billions of dollars of drug profits gave the country one of the most stable currencies in Latin America. The cartels also subsidised a boom in money-laundering businesses from art galleries to luxury watch vendors.

Escobar became a symbol of the corruption and violence generated by the drug trade. For years he ran his business with impunity, and even served briefly as an alternate member of Colombia's Congress during the 1980s. He was accused of some of the most sensational crimes in Latin America, including the assassination of a presidential candidate, a justice minister, an attorney-general, two supreme court judges and several prominent journalists. He was also behind the 1989 bombing of a Colombian airliner in which all 107 people on board died.

As the Colombian government cracked down on the drug trade, his partners in the Medellín cartel were thrown in jail or killed. Carlos Lehder was arrested and extradited to America, where he is now serving a life sentence. Gonzálo Rodríguez Gacha was shot by police in 1989, and the three Ochoa brothers surrendered to Colombian authorities in return for not being extradited.

Escobar himself surrendered and was kept in a luxury mountain-top prison of his own devising. He escaped 16 months ago and had been on the run ever since.

But the net was closing. When rival drug gangs joined in the manhunt for him, he had appeared to be on the point of surrendering for the second time. For once in his life, however, he was outwitted. He lived by the sword and he died by its creed.

Forget New York, humble Hoboken insists it is Sinatra's kind of town

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE most exciting event to occur in Hoboken, the New Jersey town fabled for its lack of glamour, was the birth on December 12, 1915, of Francis Albert Sinatra.

Now, 78 years later, the town's second most exciting event is in the offing with plans to establish an official library and museum dedicated to Frank Sinatra, its most famous son.

Start spreading the news. In Hoboken itself that is unnecessary, because for two weeks since the singer's eldest daughter, Nancy Sinatra Lambert, first mooted the idea, the town's Frankophiles have talked of little else.

Local government officials have appeared on television to promote the plan. Ms Sinatra Lambert gave a press conference to discuss the notion, and habitués of the town's 116 bars have given up on any other topic of conversation. "We're going to do everything we can to get it," the mayor, Anthony Russo, who presides over the town just across the Hudson river from New York, said.

An American celebrity who fails to be awarded a museum has plainly not made it to legendary status. Every ex-president gets one as a matter of course, as a sort of leaving present for the out-of-office. Graceland in Memphis has become a cult centre for the late Elvis Presley's fans. Roy Rogers has one. Even Dan Quayle got a museum to display his golf trophies.

But in many ways Hoboken (population: 33,000) is already a shrine to Sinatra. The waterfront is named Frank Sinatra Drive, the existing museum exhibits a quantity of Frankobilia, and almost every barber's shop, grocery and restaurant proudly displays a photograph of "Frankie".

Sinatra dropped out of formal education rather early, but the high school offers Frank Sinatra scholarships, and even the library reading room is named after him. One volume which will not be appearing in the Frank Sinatra Museum and Library is Kitty Kelly's muck-raking biography of the man: the critical reaction to this book from Hobokenites was similar to that meted out to Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* in Iran.

The local enthusiasm for Sinatra is not dimmed one iota by the fact that he has sometimes disparaged his home town as a grimy waterfront ghetto. He left town as soon as he could to head for the brighter lights of New York, and as *The New York Times* acidly pointed out, he has seldom returned to his roots.

Hoboken's reputation as a dump is, in fact, richly undeserved. When Ol' (then young) Blue Eyes lived here, the town was indeed a malodorous, hard-nosed, hard-drinking spot, but since then half the population has left and Hoboken has become a cosmopolitan residential area for Wall Street types and artists, full of trendy nightclubs and good restaurants.

Ms Sinatra Lambert has said she will announce the site for the official Sinatra museum in two months, and already the confident residents of Hoboken are debating what music to play at the opening.

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You may if you so wish extend your stay by two days to include a visit to Udaipur to include a city tour with the City Palace - the largest palace complex in Rajasthan - on the shores of Lake Pichola.

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TI 04/12

Time runs short as CIA predicts Pyongyang will go on denying access to secret sites

America begs North Korea to 'crawl off' nuclear ledge

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday claimed North Korea might yet avert an international crisis by allowing inspections of its nuclear plants. However, a comprehensive new American intelligence analysis suggested that optimism was baseless and Mr Clinton himself declined to rule out a build-up of US troops to protect South Korea.

The classified Special National Intelligence Estimate, prepared by the CIA and other intelligence agencies, has concluded that administration efforts to obtain North Korean approval for inspections will fail, officials told *The Washington Post*. Without inspections, Washington cannot be sure that North Korea does not have a nuclear bomb, something Mr Clinton has said the US could never allow.

The confrontation was the subject of a top-level national security meeting at the White House on Thursday, and the point is fast approaching when the US will be compelled to seek United Nations sanctions against North Korea. Officials fear sanctions could provoke a North Korean attack on South Korea.

Mr Clinton said that he was doing all he could to defuse the crisis and that he believed there was still a chance the North Koreans would "crawl back off this ledge that they are on". However, he said the administration was "responsibly thinking about every conceivable thing that could happen, bad and good", and would not rule out the reinforcement of the 37,000 American troops in South Korea. He has said in the past that a North Korean attack on the South would be considered an attack on America and would result in North Korea's destruction as a nation. Mr Clinton sought not to inflame matters, saying there was "no cause for great alarm" in America or North Korea.

General Merrill McPeak, the US air force chief, yesterday fuelled speculation about the possibility of hostilities. He told reporters that the South Korean capital of Seoul, 25 miles south of the border, could suffer "a lot of damage" if the 700,000 North Korean troops massed just north of the demilitarised zone launched an offensive.

American and South Korean warplanes could destroy the North Korean air force, General McPeak said, but "the question is how effective would they be in stopping the momentum on the ground of North Korean ground forces? In my judgment, they would eventually stop them, but the geography is such that Seoul might take a lot of damage in the process".

General McPeak dismissed the idea of a pre-emptive American strike against North Korea's nuclear facilities, saying that would spread deadly pollution and might not affect nuclear material that had already been moved.

America will be forced to seek sanctions against North Korea when the International Atomic Energy Agency formally reports that the inspection process has broken down. That could happen by the end of the month, but Hans Blix, the agency's director, came precariously close to such a declaration on Thursday when he told its board of governors in Vienna that his inspectors could no longer provide any "meaningful assurance" that North Korea was using its nuclear materials only for peaceful purposes.

North Korea has resisted inspections for nine months, and America has only a few weeks at most to achieve a diplomatic resolution. In a final effort last week, Mr Clinton offered North Korea talks on a package of inducements if it permitted the resumption of nuclear inspections. But North Korea has yet to reply.



Shin Soon Bum, an opposition member of South Korea's parliament, tries to silence Kim Woon Hwan of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party in an attempt to stop the government steamrollering a contentious budget bill into law in a sometimes violent debate this week



NEWS IN BRIEF

Scientists identify cancer gene

Washington: American researchers have identified the defective gene that causes a common form of inherited colon cancer in what experts are hailing as a major scientific breakthrough heralding a new era of genetic medicine (Martin Fletcher writes).

The discovery should lead to a relatively simple blood test costing about $1,000 (£675) within six months for families susceptible to the disease, and is expected to save thousands of lives.

In America alone colon cancer afflicts nearly 160,000 people a year and kills 60,000 of them. The inherited form accounts for 15 per cent of that total and approximately one in 200 Americans carry the defective gene, known as MSH2. If caught early enough, the cancer is curable.

The discovery was made almost simultaneously by two competing teams, one from Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the other from Baltimore's Johns Hopkins Oncology Centre.

Fugitive caught

Brasilia: Paulo Cesar Farias, Brazil's most wanted man, was arrested in Thailand after five months on the run and taken back to Brazil under police guard. He is accused of masterminding the corruption that forced President Collor de Mello to resign from office last year. *(Reuter)*

Malawi clash

Harare: Malawian soldiers launched an assault on President Banda's feared Young Pioneers paramilitary force in Lilongwe. After gunfire lasting two hours, at least 16 bodies lay around the paramilitary headquarters, which was destroyed.

Onassis arrest

New York: A man armed with a Magnum pistol who was trying to find Jackie Onassis has been arrested by police in New Jersey. Gary Lee Higgins, 32, was spotted near her country estate on November 22, the 30th anniversary of John Kennedy's assassination.

De Klerk visit

Johannesburg: President de Klerk is due to arrive in London on Wednesday for what will be the first meeting between a South African head of state and the Queen since South Africa left the Commonwealth in 1961.

Tapie success

Paris: The French entrepreneur and left-wing politician Bernard Tapie has retained his seat in parliament, the country's constitutional council ruled amid allegations of involvement in corruption, which he denies. *(AFP)*

Hubble closed

Houston: The Hubble telescope was turned off as shuttle astronauts approached the high-powered observatory in space. Today the repair team will attempt to install 11 new parts, including corrective optics. *(AP)*

Gennifer writes of 'Clinton love'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE notoriety earned by Gennifer Flowers after claiming to have had an affair with President Clinton is blossoming into a literary career.

A 50-page proposal by the budding author provisionally entitled *An Affair of the Heart* has been circulating among New York publishers. In the book Ms Flowers plans to elaborate on claims she had a 12-year affair with the president when he was governor of Arkansas, allegations which emerged during the 1992 presidential campaign. Mr Clinton has denied having any relationship with the former cabaret singer. Dan Bial, Ms Flowers's agent, says he expects bids "in the mid six-figure range".

Ms Flowers is offering to include a 65-minute audiotape of her conversations with Mr Clinton to go with the book. She says she is not motivated by revenge but instead by the sweet memory of the "love of my life". "I would like to talk about the relationship as it was," she said. She also proposes to accuse Republican officials of offering her $1 million (£675,000) for the tapes, in which Mr Clinton, she claims, calls Al Gore, the vice-president, "the most boring person on the face of the earth". Ms Flowers says Mr Clinton is also heard referring to Richard Gephardt, the Democrat majority whip, as "the majority dip" and Jerry Brown, a former Democrat presidential candidate as "an egotistical ass". She also says that Mr Clinton gave her $200 to pay for the abortion of their child.

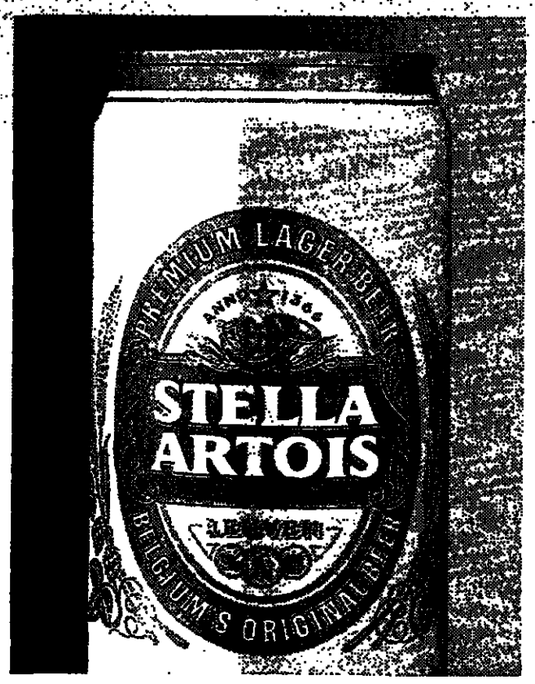
In an interview with the *Daily News* in New York Ms Flowers explained why she had taped her conversations with Mr Clinton: "I would be in grave danger if I didn't have ... some proof," she said. "I was betraying him, but, in retrospect, without them I would have been considered an off-balance bimbo."

Good Heavens, the very idea.



Flowers: claims to have tape of Clinton chats

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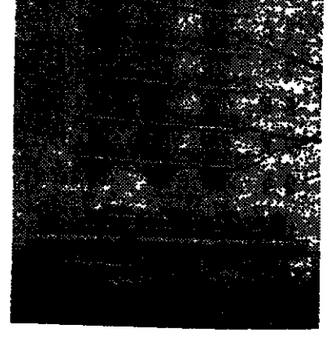
These seasonal beer offers are simply too good to mistletoe – Stella Artois, Boddington's draught bitter and Murphy's stout all at 99p apiece. Christmas at Victoria Wine, you'd be crackers to go anywhere else.

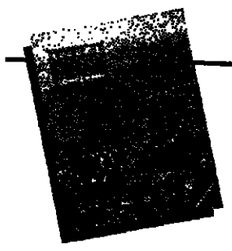
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Butterfly and the Frog deal out death by landmine

By Eve-Ann Prentice
Diplomatic Correspondent

During the time it takes to read this article, someone will have been mutilated or killed by a landmine, a weapon that has spread by the countless million through a third of the world's countries

A LANDMINE costing the price of a pint of lager can cripple a man and condemn his family to live on the edge of starvation for life.

Less than £2 is the price of some of these small, lethal devices that lie in wait for countless millions of men, women and children in a third of the world's countries.

During the time it takes to read this article, someone, somewhere, will be mutilated or killed by a weapon that has begun to proliferate out of control. About 100 million landmines have been laid from Afghanistan to the Falkland Islands, from Angola to Bosnia. Many have been laid haphazardly by guerrilla fighters — so nobody knows where they are — and many have been strewn by the thousand from the air to lie hidden in undergrowth.

Marcus Guzmán, 27, was a Nicaraguan soldier clearing mines left by Contra guerrillas four years ago when "there was a blinding light and then total darkness". The father of two is now blind and has lost his right leg.

"The noise was deafening, so strong my ears hurt. I could feel nothing, but as I brushed my leg my hand touched something warm and sticky." It was only later that the agony began. "It was a pain so strong I cannot begin to describe it. There was blood coming from my nose and mouth. I heard people around me crying and thought, I must be dead, why else are they crying?"

The landmine menace is enormous even beyond the cost in human suffering because the devices remain deadly long after fighting has stopped in a given area, because they are immensely expensive to clear and because they can threaten fragile postwar economies and governments by rendering huge areas of farming land uncultivable.

Nearly 10 million land mines have been laid in Afghanistan alone, according to the State Department in Washington. The United Nations calculates that it could take more than 1,300 years to clear even a fifth of the country, using modern technology. "In good circumstances where minefields are known, even mapped, it requires 100 times as long to clear mines as to lay them," according to a report to the UN by the International Committee of the Red Cross. "It also costs at least $1,000 (£675) to clear a single mine, including insurance premiums for the clearers.

"In Afghanistan, the United States spent $2.8 billion to supply arms (including anti-personnel mines) to the guerrillas. Less than $30 million has been allocated for mine clearance," the report says.

The international community has become alarmed at the spread of the mines and debate on the laws regulating them is intensifying. Joanne Flackman, of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said in Geneva: "The end of the Cold War and the outbreak of local conflicts made mines a huge industry. Now it is out of control and the cost of clearing the mines is so huge that the problem is being taken seriously."

The use of landmines against civilians was prohibited in 1983 under the terms of a protocol to the UN Inhumane Weapons Convention, but most countries, including Britain, have not ratified it. The protocol applies only to international conflicts and is criticised as being riddled with loopholes.

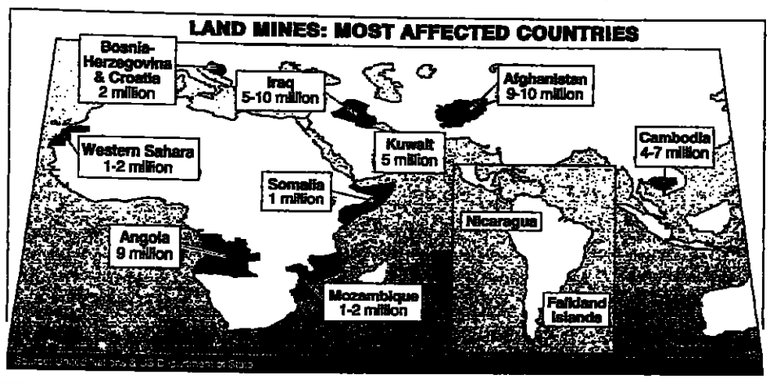
America, meanwhile, signalled its alarm by banning the export of landmines. The moratorium was imposed a year ago and extended last month for a further three years. However, America has always been a small exporter; the main countries selling landmines include Italy, China, the former Soviet Union, Argentina and Brazil. Countries with the largest minefields after Afghanistan are Angola, with an estimated nine million devices, Iraq (between five million and 10 million), and Cambodia (up to seven million), according to the UN. In Angola, there are an estimated 20,000 amputees, most of them women and children and all victims of landmines.

The devices come in dozens of shapes and sizes. Some have insidiously harmless names, such as the Butterfly and the Frog. Some are particularly vile because they come in attractive colours which appeal to children, like playthings.

Advances in mine technology are causing yet more problems. Cafod, the Roman Catholic aid agency for England and Wales says: "Plastic landmines — which are almost impossible to detect — are proliferating while sensitive anti-disturbance devices, which make the mines explode if handled, are becoming standard."

As well as devices triggered by foot pressure, there are "bounding mines" that jump into the air before exploding. Victims of these almost always die instantly.

Leading article, page 17





A young Cambodian whose life was wrecked by an encounter with one of man's cruellest weapons

Aidid joins talks under protection of his old enemy

From Sam Kiley in Nairobi

MUHAMMAD Farrah Aidid, the former fugitive warlord, joined talks yesterday with rival Somali faction leaders after arriving in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. He is under the protection of American troops who two months ago were trying to arrest or kill him.

General Aidid, who arrived on an American military transport plane, followed his long-time enemy, Ali Mahdi Muhammad, who flew into Addis Ababa earlier for talks that have been promoted as Somalia's last chance before the international community tires of the warring factions.

Hopes of a peace deal between Somalia's rival clans were raised by the presence of the main belligerents. Ethiopian officials said the two men would be in Addis Ababa for three days for meetings that would also be attended by Robert Oakley, America's special envoy to Somalia.

Mr Ali Mahdi heads an alliance of 12 Somali factions and runs a small enclave in the north of the capital, Mogadishu. He calls himself president of the devastated country, which has been without central authority since January 1991. General Aidid's militia controls southern Mogadishu.

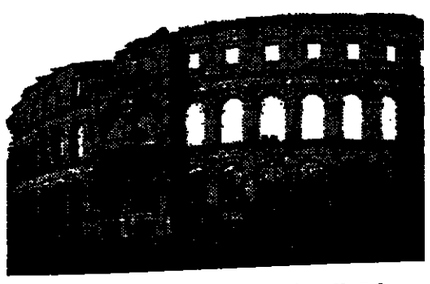
At least 25 Americans were killed during four months of fighting between General Aidid's militia and joint United Nations and American forces. But Dee Dee Myers, President Clinton's spokesman, said: "It is our belief that Aidid participating in those conversations furthers both US and UN objectives."

The startling change in the Clinton administration's attitude towards General Aidid reflects increasing concern at the highest levels in Washington and the UN headquarters in New York that the UN's recent policy in Somalia has been disastrous.

The newly arrived head of a UN commission of jurists sent by the Security Council to Mogadishu criticised the UN for holding eight Aidid aides prisoner. He also said that he would not only investigate the killing of 24 Pakistanis — blamed on General Aidid — in June but also the deaths of hundreds of Somalis in fighting between the UN-US and General Aidid's Somali National Alliance.

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Spreading neo-Nazi network switches to terror tactics



Schönhuber: followers face a ban from civil service

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

■ Germany's neo-Nazis are growing ambitious. If a trial verdict next week upsets them, they will target their foes in politics, labour and the media

NEO-Nazi radicals are preparing attacks against German politicians, unionists and journalists if two right-wing activists are sentenced on Monday for the killing of three Turks in a fire-bombing.

The verdict on the neo-Nazis in Mölln, northern Germany, will bring to a head several disturbing developments over the past six months. The first is the growing sophistication of neo-Nazi groups which, according to the counter-intelligence service, now have cells in every main German town. They communicate through fax and personal computer mailboxes, and have significantly boosted circulation of their magazine.

The second element is the extremists' new readiness to use organised violence against their opponents. There seem to be fewer random street attacks against foreigners and more clearly targeted assaults on anyone connected with anti-Nazi campaigning. The 16-year-old daughter of Manfred Klöppner, a union organiser and an outspoken critic of the neo-Nazis, has twice been treated in hospital after being beaten up by right-wing thugs.

The magazine *Einblick* (Insight) has produced a list of 400 targets, complete with addresses and information about routines. If there are inflammable components in the target's yard or garden, the magazine mentions them. There is no explicit call to set the house on fire, but the import is plain.

In the Mölln incident of November 1992, three Turks, two of them girls aged 10 and 14, died in an arson attack. Monday's verdict has become a test case for both the authorities and the right wing. The prosecution case has never been strong. The police, politically guided, have treated many racist attacks as instances of juvenile delinquency and have failed to delve deeply into the neo-Nazi background of the assailants.

Investigation into another neo-Nazi attack case six months ago has fared scarcely better. The 16-year-old prime suspect for the burning of a Turkish house in Solingen, in which four young women and a girl died, has changed his story three times; some of those arrested on the basis of his claims will probably be released next week.

For their part, the neo-Nazis have responded quickly, changing the names of organisations targeted by the police, using box numbers in Britain and Denmark to distribute racist material, and switching the venues of planned rallies to confuse undercover police units.

The neo-Nazi "hit list" is a conscious imitation of techniques used by left-wing terrorists in Germany and Italy during the 1970s: the point is essentially to cause panic among police and the potential victims.

The authorities are responding with a similarly antiquated approach: they plan to ban members of the right-wing party, the Republicans, led by Franz Schönhuber, a former Waffen SS officer, from holding civil service jobs, invoking a 1972 law designed to stop communist infiltration of institutions. The effect of such a ban would probably be to make far-right sympathisers even more secretive.

The standing of the far right at the ballot box will be tested tomorrow in council elections in the Brandenburg region around Berlin. It has proved difficult to find candidates and the turn-out is expected to be very low. This will boost the chances both of the extreme left and right.

A new report, presented at a police seminar in Bonn, shows that 45 per cent of all young Germans are prepared to solve personal conflicts with violence. Chief Superintendent Hans Georg Classen, opening the seminar, cited two examples of street violence by teenagers in Bonn in the past few weeks: a 12-year-old was beaten unconscious and robbed by three 15-year-olds, while another was knocked senseless with sticks.

Dr Peter Struck, a Hamburg University criminologist, said an aggressive threshold had been passed in Germany. "It used to be enough to knock the victim to the ground. Now the victim is also kicked in the face with studded paratrooper boots."

Nato partnership offer disappoints the Eastern bloc

FROM JAMES LANDALE IN BRUSSELS

FORMER Eastern bloc countries gave a guarded welcome yesterday to plans for greater partnership with Nato, but expressed dissatisfaction that they did not include eventual membership of the North Atlantic alliance.

Under new American plans for a "partnership for peace" (PFP), to be agreed at a Nato summit in January, Central and East European countries would have the right to "consultation" in times of conflict. Military ties would be strengthened, particularly in cases of peacekeeping, crisis management and humanitarian missions.

Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, told a meeting in Brussels of 38 countries from Nato, East Europe and the former Soviet republics, which make up the North Atlantic Co-operation Council (NACC), that Nato was ready to expand its "engagement" eastwards.

However, while he said that active participation in PFP would prepare countries to meet the obligations of joining Nato, "other factors enter into any membership decision and expansion will not occur overnight". For many countries, this was not enough. "We tend to look at the 'partnership for peace' through strategic goals which include membership of the alliance," a Polish diplomat said. "Membership should be the end of the road, but it is important we start off on this journey together with the clear understanding that we share the same goal."

However, most Nato countries were unimpressed. "We believe that PFP is a necessary condition for the expansion of Nato, but it is not a guarantee of admission," one minister said. They argued that membership of Nato included other factors, such as greater military openness, democratic control of the armed forces, and even the benefits of membership of the European Union.

Russian plans for a new Europe-wide security structure, outlined at the meeting by Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, received little support mainly because it would sever links with Nato. "The importance of the NACC is that it develops the links with Nato," one Central European diplomat said. The NACC was set up two years ago to pave the way for greater ties with the Eastern bloc at the end of the Cold War.

US threatens to cut off aid if Ukraine keeps nuclear arms

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE United States threatened yesterday to withhold promised aid to Ukraine if the former Soviet republic does not fulfil its pledge to dismantle its nuclear arsenal.

Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, delivered the threat after talks with Anatoli Zlenko, his Ukrainian counterpart, outside a meeting of Nato and East European foreign ministers.

Mr Christopher said the United States would not provide most of the $330 million (£223 million) reserved to help Ukraine scrap its weapons unless Kiev took concrete steps to carry out its promises. "The funds can begin to flow only if there are implementation agreements," the Secretary of State said. Mr Christopher also suggested that America might withhold aid unless Ukraine eliminated its missiles and moved towards a free-market economy.

Ukraine is under pressure to dismantle the 1,650 warheads it inherited from the Soviet Union, to ratify the Start 1 disarmament accord and to abide by the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. But Kiev insists it needs guarantees against a threat from Russia as well as $2.5 billion in compensation for removing the weapons.

Ukraine has offered to open talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency on a nuclear safeguards pact, agency officials said yesterday, adding: "We received a letter from the Ukrainian foreign minister on November 26 on Ukraine's readiness to start negotiations."



Warren Christopher, US Secretary of State, nearest camera, listening to East bloc opinions on a "partnership for peace" at the Nato meeting in Brussels yesterday

Shells kill civilians as Bosnia talks fail

FROM REUTER IN SARAJEVO

SHELLS killed several civilians in Sarajevo yesterday after Bosnia's rival leaders ended peace talks in Geneva without a settlement.

A man and a woman were killed and two wounded when a shell landed near a makeshift emergency clinic next to Sarajevo's main bakery, a Reuter television crew reported. Witnesses said the victims died when the shell exploded as they left the clinic. Two others died when the Princip bridge was hit earlier in the day.

President Izetbegovic of Bosnia returned to the besieged capital yesterday after peace talks in Geneva with rival Bosnian Croat and Serb leaders ended without a resolution of territorial disputes. Bosnian Serb officials said the Muslim-led Bosnian government had discussed the possible division of Sarajevo with Serbs in return for land in eastern Bosnia. But Muslim officials denied any deal had been struck and were pressing Serbs for more territorial concessions in Bosnia.

The United Nations said 24 humanitarian convoys carrying 1,321 tonnes of aid reached towns across Bosnia on Thursday, one of the most successful days for the relief effort in months. Ray Wilkinson, the UN relief agency spokesman, said that rate would put the aid effort close to its monthly target of 50,000 tonnes, although he added: "I doubt we can keep it up."

☐ **Artist's visit:** Peter Howson, the official British war artist for Bosnia sponsored by *The Times* and the Imperial War Museum, left Split yesterday for his second visit to Bosnia. *The Times* hopes to publish his first work next week.

Chinese chastise Patten

Peking: The government here said yesterday that any election reform law enacted by Hong Kong without its approval would be reversed when the colony returned to China in 1997.

"China will not accept any electoral bill passed by the Legislative Council and will start a 'new kitchen' according to the Basic Law after 1997," the Xinhua news agency reported a spokesman for China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office as saying. His statement was also broadcast.

The Chinese official chastised Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, for deciding to push forward with parts of his democratisation scheme despite China's strong objections.

The "new kitchen" is Peking's name for a political structure separate from that which evolves in Hong Kong as British rule ends. The Basic Law is the Peking-drafted constitution covering the 50 years after handover in 1997. *(Reuter)*

Khmer rejected

Phnom Penh: King Norodom Sihanouk said in a letter from Peking, where he is having cancer treatment, that he was scrapping proposals to include the Khmer Rouge in the elected Cambodian government because it would be unconstitutional. *(AFP)*

Hindu success

Delhi: The right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party was invited to form a government in the western Indian state of Rajasthan after elections produced a hung assembly. The Hindu party apparently won over some independents to gain a majority. *(Reuter)*

Jackson appeal

New York: Michael Jackson's mother has appealed to him to return to America to defend himself against child sex allegations. The pop star cancelled a world tour last month saying he was addicted to pain-killers. He has not been seen in public since. *(Reuter)*

Bhutto wins

Islamabad: The Pakistan People's Party of Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister, won more than half the seats contested in federal and provincial by-elections on Thursday, capturing with its allies six of the 12 contested seats in the National Assembly. *(Reuter)*

Fugitive held

Milan: Police here have arrested a Neapolitan Camorra crime boss wanted for murder and drug trafficking, state television said. Renato Unione, 60, had just returned from Venezuela, where he had plastic surgery to alter his appearance. *(Reuter)*

Boycott ends

Tokyo: Japanese opposition parties ended a parliamentary boycott after Morihiro Hosokawa, the prime minister, apologised over calls by Keisuke Nakanishi, his former defence minister, for changes in the pacifist constitution. *(Reuter)*

Actor strangled

Bucharest: Ioan Luchian Mihalea, 42, one of Romania's best-known actor-musicians was found dead, strangled with an electric cable, in his flat. Police refused to comment on suspicions that the murder was linked to a homosexual argument. *(Reuter)*

Wolfed down

Helsinki: Wolves have eaten up to ten pet dogs in Finland, newspapers said. In one case, leaving their forest cover, the predators carried off a small dog which was with a 14-year-old boy. *(Reuter)*

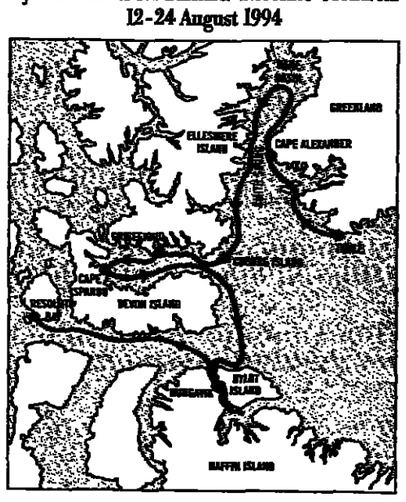
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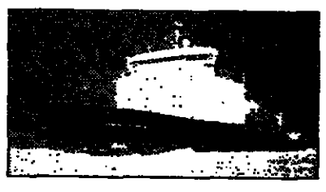
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Doors open for revival of Morrison mania

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

Alyosha from Moscow loves Jim Morrison. "A real deep guy," says the Russian youth, all pimples, pallor and dirty anorak. Standing beside him yesterday at the grave of the rock martyr in Père Lachaise cemetery, Ophélie from Dijon quotes the Beatles with trembling voice: "Jeem, you make me feel all right".

Two years after *The Doors*, Oliver Stone's film, and the pop industry celebrated the 20th anniversary of Morrison's death in a Paris bathtub, the festivities and vigils are cranking up again. This time the occasion is the 50th birthday of the dead singer of the Doors, the self-proclaimed "Lizard King", who made his sharpest career move by dying at the age of 27.

By staying alive, Paul McCartney and Mick Jagger can only dream of the worship being showered on the Californian youth whose beauty and adolescent obsession with sex and death have enraptured a generation born since his alcohol-assisted demise. Dying in Paris and being buried near Wilde, Balzac, Chopin and a host of poets and artists, has fuelled the romantic myth and the posthumous profits.

For the French creative classes, who have a long tradition of spotting genius in American oddities, from Edgar Allan Poe to Jerry Lewis, Morrison's 50th is the occasion for books, broadcasts, solemn souvenirs, records, exhibitions and a bilingual "*recital de Jim's Poetry*" at the Pompidou Centre. Still dismissed by unbelievers as famous, the poetry is now earning Jimbo the title of the Rimbaud of the late 20th century and a spate of learned studies produced by American and French professors. It is a long way from the day in 1969 when the crowd jeered when Jim read his "Ode to LA While Thinking of Brian Jones, Deceased".



Jim Morrison: a god to students in Swindon

For English-speakers, it certainly helps hearing the stuff in French. "*La Mort fait de nous des anges et nous donne des ailes,*" sounds a mite less banal than "Death makes us angels and gives us wings" as the poet-singer wrote.

For the young, the focus of the festival is Morrison's modest grave. Wedged in a back alley in the sprawling cemetery behind tombs of Victorian notables and august families, the rectangular stone has become the object of a curious cult, visited by some 100,000 pilgrims a year. It is easy enough to find. You simply follow the fans' graffiti daubed on crypts and gravestones of the lesser deceased, or follow the column of well-behaved young pilgrims, clad in the uniform of over-sized denim jackets, black jeans and combat boots. The congregation has been growing with the approaching birthday of the author of *Light My Fire*. Yesterday multi-national clumps of admirers communed with Jim under a leaden winter sky, throwing the odd chrysanthemum, written note or cigarette butt onto the little plot. "I don't want to die until I have heard the cry of a butterfly," said one teenager, quoting Jim in Spanish.

It is hard not to see something rather poignant about the yearning of these subdued, downtrodden-looking youngsters for the imagined pre-Aids golden age of sex, drugs and rock 'n roll.

"Jim is our god," says Justin, one of a group of students from Swindon. "He's the main reason for coming to Paris. He, like, really knew about the way it goes." Justin's group is not hanging around for the big birthday concert on Wednesday, performed by a "tribute band" called the Soft Parade.

For those who miss this week's ceremonies, work is already under way for the vigil to end all vigils — the Second Coming Comeback, scheduled for 2001.

PLO orders delay in setting up Gaza and Jericho council

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO AND RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

■ Warren Christopher arrives in Israel at the start of his Middle East tour to find the peace process in disarray and the PLO leadership riven by internal struggles

THE Palestine Liberation Organisation has put off plans to nominate members of the self-rule authority which is due to start taking control of Jericho and the Gaza Strip after the planned beginning of the Israeli troop withdrawal on Monday week.

The delay, coupled with the arrival in Jerusalem last night of Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, deepened the crisis surrounding the implementation of the Israeli-PLO peace accord signed in Washington on September 13 and increased disarray over Palestinian plans for the takeover that have already been upset by a power struggle inside the PLO.

PLO officials in Tunis said that the delay had been ordered because the talks with Israel have become deadlocked over several vital issues including control of border crossings into Egypt and Jordan and a definition of the size of the Jericho area from which Israel will pull back. "The PLO leadership delayed the nominations, since the talks with Israel are at an impasse," a PLO statement said.

Talks on the agreement are due to resume in Cairo tomorrow. Yesterday Freih Abu Medien, a senior PLO official, said that not only would Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman, not cross the border from Jordan to Jericho as promised early next year, if crossing-points are to be maintained under Israeli control, but that the 15,000-strong Palestinian police force designed to take control of security in Jericho and Gaza would also refuse to enter the self-rule areas.

PLO sources believe that the delay in making the appointments of those who will be in charge of running most aspects of daily Palestinian life in Jericho and Gaza is intended to intensify pressure on the United States to intervene and rescue the faltering peace process.

Mr Christopher was due in Jerusalem last night at the start of a week of intense shuttle diplomacy throughout the Middle East aimed at getting the troubled peace process back on track.

His visit came amid renewed violence in the occupied territories, where radical Jewish settlers in the Palestinian town of Hebron went on the rampage for a second day in succession yesterday, injuring nine Arabs in a shooting spree. The violence, which has clouded peace-making efforts and soured Israeli and Palestinian confidence in the prospects for a settlement, is the least of Mr Christopher's worries as he shuttles between Jerusalem, Damascus, Amman and Cairo.



An Israeli border guard arresting two Palestinian boys who were suspected of throwing stones in an east Jerusalem refugee camp yesterday

The American envoy has the unenviable task of trying to unblock the stalled negotiations between Israel and the PLO and of trying to lay the foundation for a breakthrough between Syria and Israel. According to American news reports, Mr Christopher has brought with him a fresh initiative from Washington to unblock the stalled negotiations between Israel and Syria over a "land for peace" agreement on the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967.

As another ingredient in the Middle East mix, Palestinians in Tunis and in the Israeli-occupied territories are increasingly in open revolt against Mr Arafat, claiming that he is too authoritarian and has chosen the wrong people for positions of responsibility in Gaza and Jericho where much of the PLO's administrative structure is due to move. Many PLO officials and prominent Palestinian businessmen recently presented Mr Arafat with documents criticising his leadership style.

☐ **Beirut:** Ghada Turk, Miss Lebanon, said she may not return home if the Lebanon authorities pursue their threatened legal proceedings against her for posing with Miss Israel in Johannesburg in the Miss World competition. *(Reuter)*

Clinton prepares for Assad talks

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton is prepared to meet President Assad of Syria in Geneva next month if he is convinced that Damascus is serious about making peace with Israel, American officials reported.

The White House will make that judgment after Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, completes a week-long Middle East tour that he began in Israel yesterday. Mr Christopher will ask Mr Assad for a clear statement of his intention to reach a peace accord with Israel. Israel will not agree to Syria's demand that it withdraw from the Golan Heights until Syria defines the sort of peace it would offer in return.

A meeting with the American president would be a boost for the Syrian leader in his search for international legitimacy — his country is still on America's list of states supporting terrorism. Mr Clinton, who will be in Europe next month for the Nato summit, also needs to burnish his foreign policy record.

At the very least a meeting with Mr Assad would discourage Syria from actively undermining the fragile Israeli-PLO peace agreement, signed in Washington in September. A breakthrough would eclipse Mr Clinton's other foreign policy failures and reinforce his claim to have succeeded on the really big issues.

Mr Assad is the key figure in the search for a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement, not only because that settlement would have to include an Israeli-Syrian accord but also because Damascus has a strong influence over the Lebanese government and harbours Palestinian extremists hostile to the Israeli-PLO accord.



Convoy on road to trade boom

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN DALUO, CHINA

THE opening of a direct land route physically linking China's booming economy with the "little dragon" states of South-East Asia such as Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, was greeted by tens of thousands of cheering Chinese yesterday when the first caravan of visitors crossed into the "Middle Kingdom".

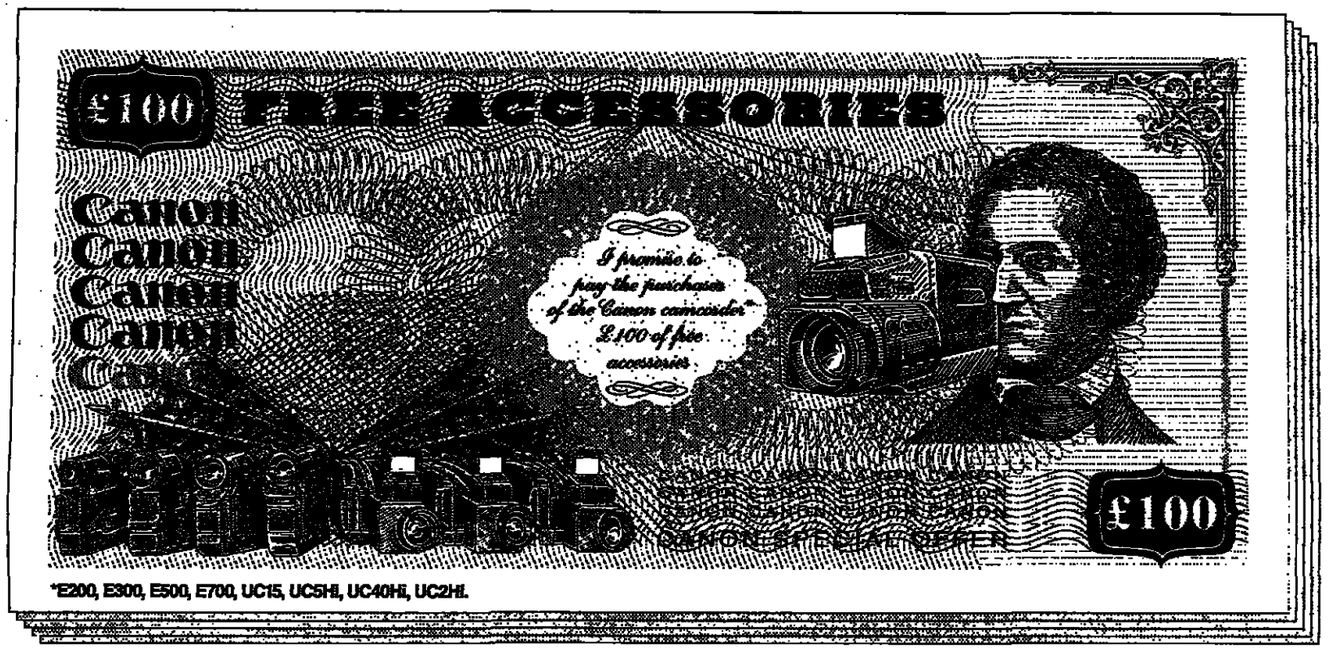
The Chinese, mainly ethnic Dai, who are related to the Thai, lined the route through towns and villages as a group of 45 four-wheel drive vehicles carrying trade and tourism officials from Thailand and Burma arrived after a drive through an unstable area of Burma which has been closed for the past 50 years.

Even soldiers and policemen shouted a welcome while a group of saffron-clad monks held up a placard saying "Thailand No 1" as the mud-spattered vehicles crossed into China at this remote frontier station. They know that the link could become a significant geopolitical link-up and benefit a huge but isolated area of China that has missed out on the economic surge in China's coastal provinces. The caravan, which was also welcomed by senior Yunnan province officials from Kunming, the provincial capital, was accompanied by foreign correspondents, who Chinese immigration officials said were the first Westerners to have entered China by this route since the People's Republic was founded in 1949.

The area on the Burmese side has known little but banditry and insurgency since the Nationalist armies were pushed out of China shortly after the founding of the republic. The 156-mile route traverses the territory of the Wa people who acted as the foot-soldiers of the Communist Party of Burma insurgency against the Burmese central government until they overthrew their Marxist leadership in 1989.

The potential of the new route and the parallel one traversing the new bridge across the Mekong from Thailand into Laos, will bring together a potential market of 220 million in China's five south-western provinces with a similar market of 325 million in South-East Asia.

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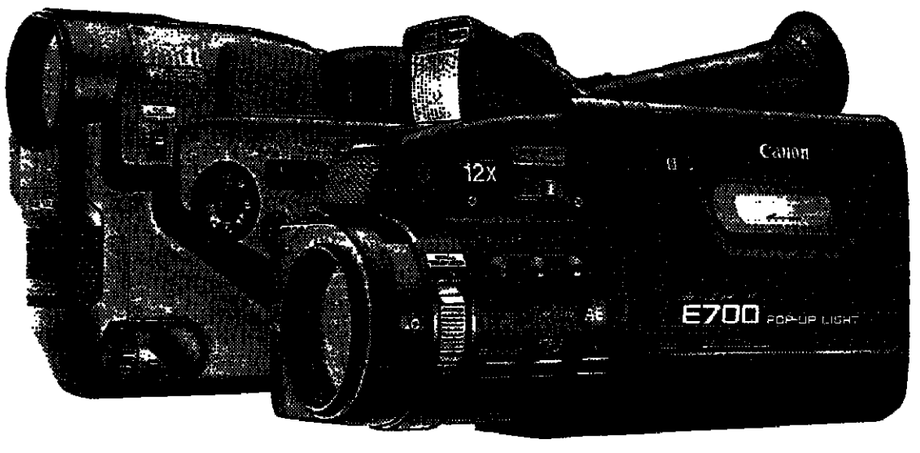
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Salman Rushdie's meeting with the president is a notable triumph in his campaign for government support against the fatwa

Alexander Chancellor in New York

Among moral conservatives there has been no softening towards Salman Rushdie. These people can brook no questioning of religious values even if they pertain to somebody else's religion. Pat Buchanan, a Roman Catholic and a former Republican challenger to George Bush, was their standard bearer in the press and on television this week when he portrayed the author of the *Satanic Verses* as a blasphemer contemptuous of the Muslim faith.

But if some people never change, others do; and now, nearly five years after Iran first called for his execution, Mr Rushdie is at last getting some real support from Western governments. This support reached a critical climax last week when Bill Clinton agreed to meet him at the White House. It was a very short meeting, and no photographer was permitted to record it, but it was nevertheless a happening of immense symbolic significance which just might be the beginning of the end of Mr Rushdie's nightmare.

When I got Mr Rushdie on the telephone yesterday, he sounded a great deal more cheerful and serene than he did when I last spoke to him at the beginning of the year, shortly before the fourth anniversary of the Ayatollah Khomeini's monstrous fatwa. He was then feeling cast down by a bitchy profile of him in *Esquire* magazine, which he feared would damage his reputation at a time when his top priority was to get his case on to the American government's agenda.

Up to then, his efforts to achieve this had met with no success. When he had tried last year to get a meeting with George Bush, our newly appointed Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, he had been icily rebuffed. Explaining Mr Bush's refusal to meet him, the then White House spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, said Mr Rushdie was just another author on a book tour and that there was "no reason for us to have any special interest in him".



Since then, a great deal has happened. Mr Bush, heir to the disastrous Reagan policy of appeasement of Iran, was replaced in the White House by Mr Clinton, whose secretary of state, Warren Christopher, has particular reason to distrust Iran, having been closely involved in the American hostage fiasco, which cost Jimmy Carter the presidency. Within a month of his inauguration, Mr Clinton's administration had publicly condemned the fatwa as "a violation of Rushdie's basic human rights and therefore a violation of international law".

Any American president could perhaps be forgiven for ignoring a British citizen cold-shouldered by his own government, but the British government's position also changed when John Major decided to meet Mr Rushdie in May. Until last year, Mr Rushdie had had to content himself with the rather thin gruel of Canadian and Scandinavian succour. Now he has had high-level meetings and pledges of support in all the major countries of Western Europe.

The conditions were thus made favourable for a meeting with the president, but Mr Clinton still appears to have hesitated until the very last moment. He had been heavily lobbied on Mr Rushdie's behalf by famous American writers such as Norman Mailer and Arthur Miller, whose good opinion this star-struck president certainly values a great deal more than his predecessor did; but he was also counselled against a meeting by several of his official advisers who were fearful of provoking the Muslim world.

In the end he went ahead, explaining to Mr Rushdie during their brief conversation that he hoped it would send a message around the world concerning America's commitment to freedom of speech. At a press conference later, Mr Clinton declared: "I mean no disrespect to the people who have that [Muslim] religious faith, but I do think it is important that here in the United States we reaffirm our commitment to protect the physical well-being and the right to speak of those with whom we intensely disagree."

It was a creditable decision by a president who at last seems to be getting the hang of the job and to be willing to use his office to display symbolic leadership at appropriate moments. It was also a notable triumph for Mr Rushdie in his campaign to get governments to recognise that there is more at stake in the fatwa than his own safety, a view which has been tragically confirmed by attacks on his translators and publishers in Norway, Italy, Turkey and Japan.

Mr Rushdie is now holding out a little carrot to the thrifty British taxpayer who resents the cost of his security, and to all those others who simply regard him as a bloody nuisance and yearn for him to go away. Even though his safety can never be fully guaranteed, he says that if Iran, thanks to international pressure, were forced to lift the fatwa, he would dispense with government security, lie low, write his books, and never seek political limelight again. Go for it, I say. It's the least we can do.

A compromise to keep Sunday special for all

MPs should respect the wishes of those who want to shop and those who do not, **Stuart Hampson** says

For months we have been reading about people being able to buy pornographic magazines on Sundays but not a Bible, to buy raw tripe but not cooked tripe, as though our High Streets were filled on Sundays with customers desperate to lay their hands on a Bible to read as they tucked into cooked tripe for their Sunday lunch. There is no remaining dissent that the Shops Act 1950 has gone the way of all ageing legislation: its detail is open to easy ridicule; the law needs to be brought up to date.

That does not mean that all the rules should go out of the window and that we should "let everybody do what they want". Such libertarian views are hardly consistent with a view of a well-ordered society that, for example, imposes planning controls to protect against inappropriate building, and pollution controls to safeguard against industrial emissions. Society accepts controls if the end justifies the means.

Nor does it justify this newspaper's argument that "those who wish to 'keep Sunday special' are welcome to do so — for themselves". The legislation which updates the 1950 Shops Act will determine the character of Sunday for everyone.

> The price will be paid by that section of society which is dependent on local shops, including the elderly

Next Wednesday, Parliament will be asked to choose between three options. But two of them are closely related and would have much the same consequences for society. One would remove all restrictions on trading hours and the other would allow large shops to open for six hours, with no restriction on small shops (the option favoured by the Shopping Hours Reform Council).

The difference between the two is one of form rather than substance. The real choice is between, on the one hand, these two variations on the same theme and, on the other hand, a development of the existing law to allow DIY stores and garden centres, corner and village shops, newsagents, filling stations, chemists, video-hire and similar shops to open (the proposal favoured by both Retailers for Shops Act Reform and the Keep Sunday Special campaign). In other words, a double Saturday weekend or a more up-to-date Sunday.

So, what would Sunday trading laws be protecting? First, the two sections of society that have a direct interest — customers and shop-workers. Some customers will undoubtedly benefit from the greater convenience of having shops open on Sundays — as they would if shops were open for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That convenience, however, has a price.

To the extent that all existing shops are driven by competitive pressure to open and broadly the same volume of trade is done, shop prices will rise to cover the expenses of additional opening. Some smaller local shops will be knocked out of business and multiples will cover their extra costs by the extra business they pick up. The price will be paid by that section of the community which is dependent on local shops, including the elderly, the handicapped and those without cars.

In a survey in August by the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys, 29 per cent of all households said they would expect to be inconvenienced "a lot" if their local small shop closed; in another survey by NOP in September only 7 per cent of all women said they would be inconvenienced "a great deal" if Parliament voted against a free-for-all. The law needs to recognise that there are more households where both partners work and cannot easily get to the shops during the day, but many supermarkets have already extended their opening hours into the late evening (typically, they open about 70 hours a week).

The protection for shop-workers under the government's bill is no more than window dressing. As Sunday trading grows, which it undoubtedly would under any of the deregulation options in the bill, there will be insufficient volunteers from among the present workforce.

Two things follow: first, as has recently been shown by one supermarket group, anyone who has an ambition to make a career in retailing would find that Sunday working would not be a matter of choice; secondly, new Sunday jobs would be matched by cutbacks in employment during the week. More often than not, part-time jobs (often second incomes) would replace full-time jobs (needed by breadwinners). The only way to protect shop-workers is to limit the number of shops opening on a Sunday.

Customers and shop-workers have dominated the debate so far, but there is a larger community that falls into neither category. The deregulation of Sunday trading would dramatically and irreversibly change the character of the day: it would not simply legitimise the trade that now takes place on Sundays in shops that open illegally; nor would it produce that idyllically invoked "Scottish Sunday". Deregulation would allow retailers to have two Saturdays, with all the bustle associated with Saturday shopping — and the weekdays would become increasingly quiet in shops.

People who live in town centres and enjoy peace and quiet for one day a week would have lost that interlude. Roads on Sundays would be as filled with delivery vehicles and shoppers' cars as they are on Saturdays. Parking restrictions would need to be introduced and transport stepped up, so that workers in sectors far beyond retailing would find their Sunday too was assailed.

Of course, many people already work in essential services on Sunday, but under deregulation more and more people in non-essential services would be drawn in.

An increasingly environmentally conscious Britain might also question whether it makes sense to have our shops open for an extra day — with the consequent use of lighting, heating, ventilation and power to run equipment — just to achieve the same level of economic activity as is currently managed in six days. A conscious decision to use more energy seems perverse.

So the choice is between the double Saturday under deregulation or bringing the Shops Act up to date — recognising what many people need to buy in order to help them enjoy their day of rest and ensuring that those items are available. That is what the proposal supported by Retailers for Shops Act Reform and the Keep Sunday Special campaign sets out to do.

"Keep Sunday Special" happens to be the slogan of one of the main campaigning groups. It also offers a reasonable objective which our legislators might seek to achieve for society at large.

The author is the chairman of the John Lewis Partnership.

CASSIDY AND LEIGH



The Princess of Wales enjoys a day out at Thorpe Park with Prince William and Prince Harry. She has sought to bring up her sons in the modern European style

Why mothering matters most

For the sake of the monarchy, the Princess of Wales is right to concentrate her efforts on raising her children

The Princess of Wales made a very moving short speech yesterday. Heaven knows, it should make some people feel ashamed of themselves. The pressure that some of the media have put on her has been intolerable. I would not like this morning to have the conscience of the editor of the *Daily Mirror*, though I suspect that organ may suffer from a certain hardening of the arteries. In rebuilding her life after the separation, the princess has not been helped by the obsessive intrusions of the press.

She has decided to clear the decks of the public work she has been undertaking, much of which dates back to the period before the separation. This seems a very sensible decision. In all public life, let alone that of royalty, there is inevitably a lot of clutter, much of it admirable clutter. The Princess of Wales had to refocus her life after the separation. As she recognises, she is still the object of intense press interest, probably the greatest on earth. In the circumstances she is wise to want to redefine her life, and eliminate the secondary activities, dear though some of them have been to her.

Her chief priority is the obvious one. In a separated marriage the responsibilities of the mother greatly increase. That is unavoidable in most cases. Her responsibilities as the mother of the two princes, who stand second and third in line to the throne, are her most important duties from a historic and a national point of view. The future of the British monarchy depends on the success of the Princess of Wales as a parent, under exceptional public scrutiny and in exceptional circumstances. The Prince of Wales can help, but a separated father can only do so much.

The princess has not ceased to want to play her part in the world, or given up her charitable concerns. But here also she is wise to clear the decks. This touching speech may not prove to have been an indication of a universal withdrawal, but a preparation for the next positive stage.

The example of the Princess Royal is an encouraging one. Her work for the Save The Children Fund has given her public activity a specific focus which has raised the level of public understanding. As a result her popularity has deservedly risen; she is taken very seriously and admired.

Yet it is the role of mother to the ultimate heir to the throne that matters most. This has arisen before, in circumstances of widowhood rather than separation. Queen Victoria's father, the Duke of Kent, died when she was an infant. She was brought up by her mother, the Duchess of Kent, who has not had the most favourable treatment from historians.

Yet Victoria's family respectability marked a decisive change from the self-indulgence of King George III's sons, so her education by the Duchess of Kent may be said to have succeeded. This Victorian culture could not have marked a greater change from the raffishness of the Regency.

The other instance is that of George III himself. His father, Frederick, Prince of Wales, died in 1751, after being hit on the head by a real tennis ball. His son was brought up by his widow, who also changed the whole culture of the monarchy. George I and George II had been heavily Germanic princes, the one intelligent but ruthless, the other stupid but rather endearing.

George III was brought up to regard himself as British and to pride himself on being a king of England rather than a German prince. His mother, the Princess of Wales, may or may not have told him, "George, be a king", but she certainly influenced his childhood; she saw to it that he had an excellent education under the supervision of Lord Bute, the scientist-prime minister, largely with Scottish tutors. The idea that the king of England should grow up to be an English gentleman rather than a German prince was the outcome of that education.

William Rees-Mogg

The two great changes in the culture of the British royal family since the death of Queen Anne in 1714 were both therefore the result of the educational work of single mothers who had responsibility for bringing up the heir to the throne. Both changes were for the good; perhaps both were necessary to save the monarchy.

The Princess of Wales by her upbringing of George III restored our national monarchy; the Duchess of Kent by her upbringing of Victoria restored the moral character of the monarchy. That respectability has been the hallmark of the House of Windsor in the 20th century.

The importance of the role of the present Princess of Wales can therefore hardly be overestimated. If she gets it right, all will eventually go well. If she gets it wrong, the monarchy will fail to adapt to the next century, with all the dangers that could follow from that. For that reason she deserves the utmost public and private support, in circumstances which would already have tested any young woman to the limit.

There are very good ways in which this could develop. The princess has a warmth and openness which is a great advantage for a modern monarchy. She has also, I suppose, had to experience the great cold shoulder of the Court apparatus, though not indeed of the Queen herself, who seems to have been a loving support both to her son and to her daughter-in-law in circumstances which must have been almost intolerable to her. It is not likely that Prince William will have been brought up to be unduly impressed by the narrow flunkyism which can so easily turn a Court into a cold, forbidden city.

The European examples since the second world war suggest that those Courts which have been most open have in the end done best. The Queen of The Netherlands is not a bicycling queen, but she is a very intelligent, practical, Dutch lady in her middle years, with a direct and open manner. The King of Spain has saved democracy for his country. It seems likely that the Princess of Wales has been bringing up her sons in what might be called the modern European style. This must be right.

The public likes and admires the Princess of Wales. That is an established fact, which does not now depend on the marriage. Most of us want the monarchy to overcome its problems, and it is obvious that her upbringing of the two princes is essential to the successful future development of the monarchy in Britain.

Her withdrawal from varied public activities seems an appropriate interim step, a reformulation of her priorities. Hopefully, it will be followed as she intends by more satisfactory public work in a specific area. She will need an outlet for her talent and energy. But it is her influence on her sons which matters most. The future history of the British crown will be determined by that.

In all this, we should have great sympathy for Prince Charles. Nobody can judge the working of anyone else's marriage. The sadness is that this potentially happy marriage led to the separation. He is experiencing, as is the Princess of Wales, years in the wilderness.

His search for a role may be more difficult than hers, because the necessary core of her role is that of a mother. He has the historic record against him finding a satisfactory role. It is indeed hard to point to a Prince of Wales who has found a conspicuously successful role since the Black Prince, who died as long ago as 1376. But Prince Charles is a good and serious man; the public affection for Diana does not belittle him.

Simon Jenkins's column will appear on Monday.

A fashion for faux pas

MATTHEW BOND DIARY

SEVERAL weeks have passed but the sartorial scars remain. No matter how many times the mind's eye replays the scene, the outcome is unchanged. But that's social gaffes for you — so quick to commit, so very slow to fade.

Perhaps confession will ease the pain. I arrived recently at a friend's wedding exactly as I have to so many others before — two minutes late. But by now the routine is well practised. Park in nice big space by church gate; zoom past bride with Rory Underwood side-step (not forgetting Rob Andrew smile) and into church, pausing briefly to collect pile of surplus service cards. Enter knave doing convincing impersonation of unlucky usher charged with organising over-flow car parking. Acknowledge sympathetic glances from unknown maiden aunts and prepare for another stirring chorus of "I Vow to Thee, my Country". Works every time. Or rather it had until now.

It was the unknown maiden aunts who alerted me. Weren't they rather over-doing the sympathy? The social panic reflex took over. Flies? Discreetly checked. Tie? Flamboyantly readjusted. Nose? Noisily reblown. But still the sympathy oozed. Fatefully, I felt my eyes drawn to the spaces between the maiden aunts, to the spaces between mothers, sisters, female cousins and female friends. In short, with mounting panic, I stared at the back of every man in the church. I closed my eyes as the horror sank in. I was the only man wearing a morning suit.

So, the rumours were true — the 1980s really were over. Panic-striken, I fled. It may have been Underwood on the way in, but the exit was all Jamie Joseph. And I really must apologise to the young bridesmaid whose ankle I crushed in my hasty retreat.

She and I still bear the scars. And with the party-ridden festive season upon us, my anxiety-ridden brain has switched to overdrive at the dangers ahead. What, for instance, to wear to *The Times* Christmas Party — Dress: Lounge suit/ Informal? Veer too far one way and risk being branded square by senior executives raving to the techno beat. Too far down the hooded top and baggy trousers route and it's writing headlines for Caitlin Moran for the rest of my career.

But there is, of course, another way, the option pursued by those brave enough to look on the tempests of fashion without being shaken. Hillary Clinton might pose for Annie Leibovitz's camera. Annita Keating strut her stuff on the Sydney catwalk, but there were stronger fashion forces abroad. Yes, George and Barbara Bush were in town, the couple who pioneered the art of never letting an opportunity pass to look everything less than impressive.

Suddenly, individuality was everywhere. If Kenneth Clarke thought lion-tamers wore pale grey suits and Hush Puppies, so Prince Edward independent meant daring to be different by sporting overcoat, flannel suit and leather briefcase for his first day at Ardent Productions.

Only certain parts of the law seem to have failed to spot the new trend, as the solicitor turned away from a legal-aid hearing for wearing a sports jacket duly discovered. How different it could have been if Ashraf Ali Bashiri had appeared before Justice Laws, who spent most of the week still explaining why 180 hours community service was an appropriate sentence for Roger Levitt. At weekends, Laws apparently favours pink, paisley shirts coupled with Garrick club ties. We are what we wear, it seems. Oops, the maiden aunts are staring again.

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be it. If Gillian Clarke believed she looked every inch the conjuror's assistant (where did her husband hide that £3.5 billion?) who were we to bemoan the lack of sequins? As for Sir Patrick Mayhew — he may have forsaken the traditional straitjacket and chains, but his escapologist act was looking more polished by the day. Never mind the trappings, just enjoy the office.

Never mind the trappings at all was the more minimalist motto adopted by the French ballerina Sylvie Guillem as she performed the dance of barely one veil at the Royal Opera House for the Prince of Wales. But the prince, who when he wasn't costing Welsh police £58 a minute was costing ballet and opera lovers £1,750 a seat to sit near him, took the new sartorial incorrectness in his stride. "I see you managed to put something else on," he remarked to Guillem afterwards, with not a hint of wistfulness.

LEARN THE LESSON

Taking over a few bad schools could improve many more

Government and opposition parties, think tanks and, most recently, a National Commission have taxed themselves over what is rightly seen as a catastrophic decline in school performance and pupil achievement in poor urban areas. None of the measures which has emerged from this desperate search for remedies has been more dramatic than the proposal by Education Secretary John Patten to set up a "hit squad" whose function is to intervene directly — and if necessary shut down — those schools judged to be failing most disastrously.

Mr Patten's emergency team has now singled out the first two schools for this intensive treatment. Crook Primary School in Durham and Brookside Special School in Derby were both subject to inspectors' reports which prompted what the Secretary of State has described as "very serious concern". They will now become the test of an ambitious goverment remedial programme.

Under the provisions of the 1993 Education Act, the schools themselves and the local authorities that run them will be asked to submit an action plan to the Secretary of State, outlining their own recommendations for immediate improvements. If Mr Patten does not find their proposals satisfactory he may close the schools altogether, dispersing their pupils and staff. Or he may reconstitute them as grant maintained ("opted out") schools to be run directly by the Department for Education.

Both of these options have the effect of taking a school out of the control of its local education authority. Thus, the blame (and the shame) for a school's failure will be seen to reflect not only on its headteacher and staff but on the local council whose responsibility it was to provide adequate education for all its children.

In forcibly removing a school from the control of a local authority, Mr Patten will undoubtedly be creating precedents for central government usurpation of power. Only the dire standards in many sink schools and the significant role that they play in patterns of social deprivation, make this drastic operation justifiable. It is politically risky. Local councils whose own power is being over-ruled, and teachers' spokesmen who see members of their profession being singled out for opprobrium will make instant capital if these exceptional procedures are not seen to bear fruit.

Mr Patten's "hit squads" have already been the subject of fierce attack by teaching unions who feel that their professional right to control what happens in the classroom should be inviolate, as well as by those who see the increasing power of central goverment as a threat to local democratic control. To defend his position effectively, he needs to make clear the sense in which bad schools are themselves a symptom of failed local democracy.

Last month, a report by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) reported that "inadequate and disturbing standards" were widespread in inner city schools. Teachers were too ready to over-generalise "the extent and effect of pupils' disadvantage" and this resulted in depressing expectations of their improvement, said the report. In the worst cases, nothing less than abolition or radical overhaul will be a solution. But for every school which is actually closed or restructured, there will be a great many others who will take fright.

Borderline schools will take serious action to escape closure; local education authorities will be eager to avoid public humiliation and the shrinking of their own dominion. Making an example of a few schools may bring about improvements in many others. By intervening to protect the rights of parents and children whose needs have been neglected by local authorities, central government can make the education system both better and more accountable.

DEATH IN THE GRASS

The cheap killers that lie in wait for years

More than 100 million land mines, many costing only a few pounds to make and sow, lie indiscriminately across swathes of territory in countries wracked by recent war. Every day hundreds of women, children and old men in countries from Cambodia to Angola are killed or mutilated as they go to work in the fields, play on waste ground or tend their animals in their villages. The killing goes on long after the conflicts are settled. Mines, the simplest technology of death, can be hidden for years in scrub and undergrowth, too expensive to clear and too deadly to defy.

In countries where mines have been sown on a large scale, often with Western help, the menace will never be eradicated. Some ten million mines cover the mountains of Afghanistan, laid haphazardly by guerrillas in the long war against the Russians or dropped by Soviet troops to deny the mujahidin access to farming land. No one now knows where they are. And now that the war is officially over, few outsiders care. It takes 100 times as long to clear as to lay mines. The Americans spent $2.8 billion supplying arms and anti-personnel mines to the mujahidin: less than $30 million has been spent clearing them, and at the present rate it will take 1,300 years to clear even a fifth of the country. The growing army of amputees is the legacy.

Since 1983 the international community has attempted to curb the use of mines. A protocol to the United Nations Inhumane Weapons Convention outlaws the use of landmines against civilians. Many countries say it is too full of loopholes to be of much use. Britain, though it has signed, has not yet ratified the protocol, arguing that it has neither manufactured nor exported conventional mines since 1982, cannot find the parliamentary time needed for ratification and in any case itself observes the prohibition.

Despite the ban, the proliferation has continued. The Americans stopped exporting mines a year ago, and have signalled their alarm by extending the moratorium for a further three years. Next week they will introduce a resolution in the UN calling for an end to the export of indiscriminate weapons, which will receive ritual approval. But there is still no worldwide ban on production. And because the technology is so simple, any such ban would easily be flouted by rogue regimes. Britain wants to permit the production of more sophisticated mines which self-destruct after a certain time, saying these are a legitimate means of self-defence. The trend however is the other way: mines, especially the undetectable plastic variety sown by the Argentinians in the Falklands, are becoming ever smaller and harder to eradicate.

Mine-clearance is dangerous and expensive. But no country will recover from war until its land, especially productive farming areas, is safe. More research is needed into identification and destruction techniques. The industrialised nations that sell these deadly weapons must be encouraged to curb their exports or pay for the clean-up. Otherwise nations such as Angola, with an estimated 20,000 amputees, will be the too typical face of the future: a population blinded, crippled and mutilated by the silent killers waiting in the long grass.

TIME AND SPACE

A mature decision that deserves respect

The Princess of Wales's unexpected announcement that she intends to reduce her public duties considerably from the beginning of next year deserves sympathy and compassionate respect. It is the mature decision of a young woman who has been at centre stage since her engagement was announced twelve years ago and has rarely enjoyed privacy in her adult life.

In the eleven months since her separation from the Prince of Wales, the princess has created an independent role for herself as an assiduous supporter of more than 100 charities. None can doubt the sincerity of her contribution to charitable work in this country or the impact it has made upon the public. Though often regarded as the most modern member of the royal family, she has also come to epitomise one of its most ancient responsibilities: to tend to the weak and the sick. Her determination to develop this role over the last year — and Prince Charles's continued commitment to the issues that interest him — has helped to diminish fears that their separation would provoke a constitutional crisis.

She has paid a price for this prominence. The consequences of the "overwhelming" media attention upon her are no less regrettable because she has played her own deliberate part in attracting it. Some of the coverage of her private life has been distasteful. Any hope that the interest of the press will suddenly diminish is optimistic. But time will do its work. Her partial withdrawal from public life will make intrusions both harder to effect and harder to justify on "public interest" grounds. Though the fascination of ordinary people around the world with the princess is unlikely to wane, she may now find her private life a little more tolerable.

Rigorous public scrutiny is good for evolving institutions but it is rarely good for families. The main benefit of Princess Diana's decision should be to improve the quality of life she enjoys with her children. As Prince William and Prince Harry approach adolescence, the guiding influence of their parents in their development and education will become increasingly important. The princess's decision should counteract the impression that she and her estranged husband are competing for the favour of the public. Her pledge yesterday that she would both lavish affection upon her sons and make them sense the "tradition into which they were born" should reassure those concerned to see the monarchy refortified after a difficult period in its history.

There is nothing absolute in the announcement which the princess made yesterday. She does not intend to adopt the life of a recluse; her involvement with charities will continue, albeit less intensively. A period of reduced publicity and public responsibility will give her, and those close to her, time to take stock and to decide the sort of role she might assume in the decades to come. It would be churlish to deny her the "time and space" which she has so honestly requested.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Orchestral need in the regions

From Mr Gavin Henderson and others

Sir, As representatives of a cross-section of professional and public interest in the promotion and attendance of orchestral music, both in London and across the UK, we wish to express the very widespread concern now growing in respect of the Arts Council's proposal for the curtailment of support for two of the three London orchestras at risk. Much of our concern rests with the very narrow view expressed in the brief given to Sir Leonard Hoffmann and his committee, set up to review that proposal.

There is need to address regional orchestral provision — particularly in areas such as the South East, the east of England and the East Midlands, where no indigenous full-time orchestral life exists. Opportunity may also occur, especially with the imminent rebuilding scheme at Covent Garden, to explore a more diverse approach to orchestral life in the Royal Opera House.

The rise of specialist performance in early and contemporary music invites a more flexible system of accompaniment for opera. So, too, the call for a dedicated dance house may establish new orchestral requirements. In each of these cases the existing London orchestras could play a crucial role.

The joint review set up by the BBC and the Arts Council to review orchestral resources was a sensible first step: it is both sad and curious that this process has been put in abeyance whilst the specific London issue is scrutinised.

On November 22 Sir Leonard wrote to one of our number that "we have not been asked to advise on the best way to maintain or improve the standards of orchestral music in London". If this is the case, and if the Arts Council has also chosen to ignore wider national concern, then we would urge that it put this scheme in abeyance also, and take a more visionary approach to the opportunities that could be stimulated by a truly comprehensive study.

Yours sincerely,
GAVIN HENDERSON
(Artistic Director, Brighton Festival),
AIDAN PLENDER
(Assistant Director, Association of British Concert Promoters),
TOM PONSONBY
(Executive Director, British Association of Concert Agents),
JOHN TOOLEY
(General Director, Royal Opera House, 1970-88),
JEREMY TYNDALL
(Chairman, British Arts Festivals Association),
c/o Brighton Festival,
21-22 Old Steine,
Brighton, East Sussex.

Threat to opera tours

From Mr Richard Lawrence and others

Sir, The undersigned were, successively, music directors of the Arts Council of Great Britain between 1948 and 1988. We view with dismay the council's decision to require Glyndebourne Touring Opera (GTO) to bid against other opera companies for funds after 1994 and, if successful, to tour to smaller theatres than those regularly visited hitherto.

GTO's artistic standards have long been acknowledged as outstanding. Its commitment to new work is exemplary, some productions originating with the touring company and only later being presented in the summer season at Glyndebourne.

It has built up a devoted following in such cities as Manchester, Southampton and Oxford, none of which is over-provided with professional opera. It has also offered an excellent training ground for first-rate young singers, many of whom have subsequently attained the highest level of national and international recognition.

All this is now threatened. We realise that the Arts Council is faced with a reduction in funds from the government. But we urge the council not to put at risk the unique contribution which GTO makes to opera provision and training in the country.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LAWRENCE (1983-8),
BASIL DEANE (1980-3),
JOHN CRUFT (1965-79),
JOHN DENISON (1948-65),
As from: 115 Camberwell Grove, SE5.

Hats and horses

From Mr Claude R. Hart

Sir, The habit of gentlemen and ladies wearing hats (letters, December 1) is still very much alive amongst the horse-racing fraternity. Even the smallest race meeting or the most far-flung point-to-point course is graced by stylish titfers — with trilbies constantly being doffed, the peaks of caps being briefly grasped between thumb and index finger, and jockeys touching their whips to their peaks.

The most wonderful thing is that none of this behaviour is done out of subservience, but rather in the spirit of mutual regard and friendship.

Yours sincerely,
CLAUDE R. HART,
6 Egdean Walk, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Housing lone parents and disabled

From the Director of Shelter

Sir, You report (November 29) that the "housing privileges of single parents" may be abolished, and that council houses in future may be allocated solely on the basis of housing need.

It is wrong to suggest that lone parents get some kind of "housing privilege" or "automatic right" to council housing. On the contrary, the existing homelessness law is aimed at meeting the needs of children — that is why their parents get housed. Lone parents and couples with children receive the same priority under these rules. Lone parents who are not homeless must go on the council waiting lists like everyone else.

An Institute of Housing survey, published in October, found that all 30 local authorities which responded already assess applicants on the basis of housing need only. Marital status is irrelevant to that assessment. Last year less than half of those housed by councils had been accepted as homeless. Many of the homeless families who were housed would have already been registered on waiting lists as well and only a tiny proportion are "young lone parents".

To dump groups of lone parents in "short-life" blocks of flats awaiting demolition would be to discriminate against the children involved. Instead of looking for scapegoats, the government should increase the supply of affordable housing to ensure that the homeless *and* those on waiting lists get the chance of a decent home.

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA McKECHNIE,
Director,
Shelter,
88 Old Street, EC1.
November 29.

From Mr John Perry

Sir, Plans to deny lone parents access to permanent housing would, if confirmed, prejudge the outcome of the debate which ministers have promised us when they launch their options in the new year.

The proposal that single parents should be condemned to short-life accommodation is totally impracticable. There is simply not enough of it in usable condition in most areas. Even if there was, basic repairs would be needed or councils might well be culpable under statutory nuisance laws.

The whole idea smacks of an ill-thought-out response to a problem which itself has been grossly exaggerated. Housing professionals have already urged the government to proceed much more cautiously before overturning legislation that has stood the test of 16 years' application and helps nearly 150,000 families each year.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PERRY
(Policy Director),
Institute of Housing,
Octavia House, Westwood Way,
Coventry, West Midlands.
November 29.

From the Director General of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Sir, Among the announcements by the housing minister at the Conservative conference in October was a proposal that the special needs management allowance for housing association community-care schemes should not be payable where an individual is sponsored by a local authority. If implemented, this proposal almost certainly leaves many disabled and other vulnerable people in some form of financial no man's land.

If sponsoring local authorities are not given additional funds to make up any losses then the individual will have no other means of making up the shortfall. The government appears to have no precise statistics on how many people will be affected by this proposal. There is every indication, however, that the suggested saving of £10 million will be far greater than that and that the loss to individuals or the cost to local authorities will be substantially higher.

Once again it appears that the most vulnerable people are being threatened because of lack of government planning and coordination between departments. By central government standards, a tiny amount of money will be saved at the expense of a group of people who do not have sufficient resources or influence to challenge the proposal.

I urge the housing minister and indeed the Secretary of State for Health to assure us that it is not their intention to reduce the funding available for people with disability and that they will ensure that no shortfall occurs in the money available to these valuable community care schemes.

Yours truly,
JAMES STANFORD,
Director General,
The Leonard Cheshire Foundation,
26-29 Maunsel Street, SW1.

Budget points

From Mr Bruce Sutherland

Sir, I agree with Adrian Baird's argument (letter, December 3) that Kenneth Clarke's proposal to restrict the capital gains tax indexation allowance "goes against Conservative tax policy repeatedly stated for over a decade", but I would go farther. Yet again ministers and officials have failed to recognise the inevitable reaction of taxpayers to ill-considered changes in the tax system.

In his 1985 Budget speech, Mr Nigel Lawson said:

I have decided that the right way to reform capital gains tax is to build on the important change made by my predecessor three years ago, when he introduced the 1982 indexation relief.

That relief, valuable though it is, and increasingly valuable as it will become, suffers from three serious limitations . . . Second, the indexation does not at present extend to losses. I propose to remove this restriction.

Mr Clarke now proposes to bring back this serious limitation — the more serious in that most individuals' gains are now taxed at 40 per cent, not at 30 per cent as in 1985. The basic philosophy appears to be "we will tax your real gains, but will not allow you your real losses".

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE SUTHERLAND,
Stoneleigh House,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.

From Mr Jack Straw, MP for Blackburn (Labour)

Sir, In a stimulating article on Labour's public spending approach (November 29), Graham Searjeant repeats the conventional, but wholly inaccurate, wisdom that "the Liberal Democrats' penny on income tax for education proved one of their few vote-winners".

There is no evidence to support this. Opinion surveys may have suggested that, in the abstract, people liked the idea, but they certainly did not vote for it. The Liberal Democrats' 1992 vote was down 1.3 million on its 1987 levels. One in five of their voters deserted them. On the other hand, Labour's vote rose by 1.6 million.

Yours faithfully,
JACK STRAW,
House of Commons.

From Mr J. R. Appleyard

Sir, From the Budget I learn that the unemployed will cease to receive unemployment benefit after six months, yet government schemes such as job clubs are not available to the unemployed until they have been unemployed for six months. Who will now be eligible for these schemes — only those who receive income support?

Yours truly,
JOHN APPLEYARD,
12 Vicarage Road,
Teddington, Middlesex.

From Sir Michael Sandberg

Sir, I do not know which astonishes me more: your use of a discredited Chancellor of the Exchequer or the sheer effrontery of Norman Lamont's article, "Beware of the growth factor" (November 29). Perhaps he has forgotten he was sacked.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL SANDBERG,
54a Hyde Park Gate, SW7.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

Zimbabwe tourism

From Mr William Travers

Sir, "You do not, as a rule, go to Zimbabwe for the shopping; you go for the elephants", reports Alan Hamilton (November 24). He then alleges that "in the national parks and game reserves the elephants live in peace". What nonsense.

Zimbabwe plans to "cull" — or, in plain English, slaughter — 5,000 elephants this year and another 15,000 before the end of the decade, based on population predictions that its own scientists admit may be as much as 30 per cent inaccurate.

In some "peaceful" national parks poaching is out of control. In one area alone up to 10 elephants a week are reportedly being butchered. Zimbabwe also continues to defy the international ivory trade ban and is actively promoting a restart of the bloody ivory trade.

The future security of Africa's elephants relies on the continuance and enforcement of the ban — fought for and won by groups such as Elefriends (described by Mr Hamilton as "far-away do-gooders"). If the culling, poaching and ivory trading are permitted to cause the demise of this amazing beast tourists will soon have no option but to visit Zimbabwe for the shopping.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM TRAVERS
(Chairman),
Elefriends,
Coldharbour, Dorking, Surrey.
November 25.

From Mr B. J. Lennox

Sir, In his enthusiasm for Zimbabwe, Mr Hamilton apparently overlooks that in 13 years President Mugabe has brought the country's economy to its knees. From being worth 68p at independence, a Zimbabwe dollar is now valued at 10p.

By the way, the Zambesi flows from the Victoria Falls, not towards them; and the bad-tempered "water" buffalo which Mr Hamilton prudently avoided would almost certainly have been land-based.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. LENNOX,
11 Boyne Rise, King's Worthy,
Winchester, Hampshire.

Hospital gifts on the scrapheap?

From the Chairman of Harrods

Sir, If the Royal Marsden Hospital in Chelsea is closed by the government in the name of economy, it will not be only the patients and their families who will experience a deep sense of disquiet. Companies which have been pleased to provide facilities the NHS has said it cannot afford may decide that they have been duped.

As chairman of this company I endowed the Harrods Selectron Theatre at the Royal Marsden, a key facility in the treatment of cancer. Now, less than two years after its completion, its future is in grave doubt, together with the other life-saving facilities donated by private enterprise.

If this government intends to continue relying upon private endeavours to make up the shortfalls of the NHS it may soon find its appeals are met with no response.

Yours faithfully,
MOHAMED AL FAYED,
Chairman,
Harrods Ltd,
Knightsbridge, SW1.
December 2.

Cancer treatment

From Dr Ian Kunkler

Sir, Your health service correspondent reports (November 23) Professor Karol Sikora's comments that by international standards the survival rates of patients treated for cancers of the bowel, prostate, cervix and breast in Britain are poor. Why is this?

Hard evidence to explain the differences is difficult to assemble. However, it seems likely that inappropriate treatment or the delay in delivery of appropriate surgery, radiotherapy or chemotherapy are important and correctable factors.

Evidence for the adverse effects of delay in treatment for cancer is scanty since curative treatment is started without delay wherever possible. However, there is suggestive evidence from studies of women treated by surgery and radiotherapy for early breast cancer that a delay in radiotherapy of more than four months following surgery increases the risk of local recurrence of the disease.

Waiting lists of many cancer specialists, particularly in radiotherapy, are grossly in excess of the recommended guidelines recently drawn up by the Royal Colleges of Radiologists and Physicians. They recommend that no patient should wait more than a month for curative therapy to be started.

A major investment in equipment and staff is required in many cancer centres. We owe every patient access to treatment for cancer with the minimum delay.

Yours faithfully,
IAN KUNKLER,
Department of Clinical Oncology,
Western General Hospital,
Edinburgh EH4 2XU.

A jazz great

From Professor Craig Sharp

Sir, Bruce Turner (obituary, December 1) had a habit of addressing everybody of either sex or whatever age as "Dad". On his return from India, where he had seen his father after an interval of many years, he said to me: "You know, Dad, I didn't know what to call him!"

Bruce was one of a tiny elite of British jazz musicians who achieved rankings in the late 1950s and 1960s in what were regarded as the definitive jazz polls of the American magazine *Downbeat*.

Yours sincerely,
CRAIG SHARP,
University of Limerick,
Department of Physical Education and Sports Sciences,
Limerick, Republic of Ireland.

Delenda est Etona?

From Professor E. J. Thomas

Sir, I find it astonishing that you should both report upon (December 1, 2) and write a leader (December 1) about the appointment of the new Head Master at Eton. I believe that it is the existence of such institutions and the fact that access for the majority of their pupils is determined by money that is the most disabling factor in Britain becoming a meritocratic society with the correct values to address the challenges we will face in the next 50 years.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. THOMAS,
Abbey Farmhouse, Mottisfont,
Romsey, Hampshire.

From Mr Peter Doble

Sir, "John Lewis is a New Zealander, the first foreigner to become head of Eton" (leading article, December 1).

Since when have Commonwealth citizens been foreigners?

Yours faithfully,
PETER DOBLE,
221c Gloucester Terrace, W2.

From Dr Fiona Cornish

Sir, Following John Lewis's appointment, can we expect the college's motto to change from *Floreat Etona* to "Never Knowingly Undersold"?

Yours faithfully,
FIONA CORNISH,
15 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 3: The Queen this afternoon visited HMS Lancaster, West India Docks, London E14, and was received by the Commanding Officer (Commander Mark Sloan), the Chairman, London Docklands Development Corporation (Mr Michael Pickard) and the Mayor of Tower Hamlets (Councillor John Snooks).

Her Majesty toured the ship and afterwards honoured the Commanding Officer with her presence at Luncheon.

The Duchess of Grafton, Mr Robin Janvrin and Lieutenant Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh today attended a Ceremony to launch HMCC Sentinel at Portchester Shipyard, Fareham, and was received by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach (Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire).

Major Ian Grant RM was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Princess Royal, Patron, British School of Osteopathy, this morning attended a Graduation Ceremony at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, London WC2.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the new Inter-Action Centre and launched Inter-Action Trust's Silver Jubilee Celebrations at HMS President (1918), Victoria Embankment, London EC4.

Mrs Malcolm Innes was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 3: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this afternoon attended a meeting at St James's Palace with business leaders and community representatives who have participated in the "Seeing is Believing" programme.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 3: The Princess of Wales, Patron, Headway National Head Injuries Association, this afternoon attended a Luncheon at the London Hilton, Park Lane, London, W1.

Captain Edward Musto RM was in attendance.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, today visited Plymouth and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of Devon (Lieutenant-Colonel The Earl of Morley).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Society's Devon Child Protection Centre in Mannamead Road.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this evening attended a Banquet in aid of the Plymouth and District Branch of the Society at the Moat House Hotel.

Mrs Jane Stevens was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, Order of St John, this morning received Mr Timothy Everard on relinquishing the appointment of Secretary-General and Sir Colin Imray on assuming the appointment.

The Duchess of Gloucester today visited Cumbria and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Cumbria (Sir Charles Graham, Bt.)

Her Royal Highness visited Dalton Abbeyfield House for the Elderly, Dalton-in-Furness, and afterwards visited Kendal College, Kendal. Later The Duchess of Gloucester opened Georgian House, Probation Office and Resource Centre, Lowther Street, Carlisle, Cumbria.

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 3: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited Dennis Specialist Vehicles, Dennis Way, Slyfield Industrial Estate, Slyfield, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Surrey (Mr Richard Thornton).

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, the University of Surrey, this afternoon opened the Environmental Flow Research Centre and later presided at the Conferment of Degrees Ceremony at Guildford Cathedral followed by a dinner for honorary graduates at the University of Surrey.

Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.

School news

Sherborne School
Today's Cheltenham match completes a centenary of inter-school rugby football fixtures at Sherborne. To celebrate the occasion a dinner was held last night. The speakers were Mr Ian Beer, President of the Rugby Football Union, Mr Mike Davis, Master in Charge of Rugby Football, Mr Danny Hearn, Old Cheltonian, and Dr David Barry, Old Shirburnian.

Sutton Valence School, Kent
The Governors of Sutton Valence School are pleased to announce that Mr Nicholas Sampson, MA (Cantab), currently Housemaster at Wells Cathedral School will succeed Mr Michael Haywood, MA, who is retiring as Headmaster on September 1, 1994.

British-American-Canadian Associates

The Lord Mayor of Westminster and Mr Anthony Bianco attended the 41st British-American-Canadian Ball held on December 1, at Grosvenor House. Professor David Adams, Chairman of British-American-Canadian Associates, presided. Lord Menuhin, OM, KBE, and the Hon Mrs Gabriel Menuhin were guests of honour. The Chairman of the Ball was Mrs Amanda Whitaker Frame.

Anniversaries and birthdays are on the facing page



MARTIN BEDDALL

Valery Gergiev and Galina Gorchakova, of the Kirov Opera, outside the Albert Hall, London, where they will be taking part on Monday in a concert performance of *Iolanta*, Tchaikovsky's last opera. Miss Gorchakova will sing the title role; Mr Gergiev, the company's artistic director, will be conducting the performance

Church services tomorrow

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass for Five Voices (Byrd), People look East (Velu), Teach me O Lord (Byrd), Rev Canon Marlene Parsons; 4 Choral E, Noble in A (No. 1), O come Emmanuel (Carter), Canon Edward Longman.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch and Holy Baptism (Schubert in G), Ne timeas Maria (Victoria), Rev Dr C A Lewis; 3.15 E Second Service (Leighton), Behold, the hour cometh (Tomkins); 6.30 Sermon and Compline, The Dean.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Larghetto in F sharp minor (Wesley), Darke in F, Rorate coeli (Byrd), Prelude and Fugue in A (Bach), The Dean; 3 E Murrill in E, Rejoice in the Lord (Purcell), Fantasia & Fugue in G minor (Bach).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C and Parade, The Provost; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), O Sacrum Convivium (Messiaen), Canon Barry Thompson; 3 Willow Tree Carol Service; 6 Choral E, Dyson in F, Remember now thy Creator (Stegall), Rev Jacqui Jones.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 10 Family Euch, Sumsion in B flat, Agnus Dei (Jackson in G); 11.30 Choral M, Sumsion in B flat, Jubilate, Canon Michael Rees; 3.30 Choral E, Andrews in G, Amen (Plainsong), Wachet Auf (Bach); 6.30 Advent Carol Service.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Cathedral Euch, Missa Brevis (Mozart), Canon John Randall; 5.30 E, Harris in A, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicite in B flat (Purcell), Jubilate Deo in B flat (Stanford), Canon Brown; 11.15 HC, Mass in four parts (Byrd), Canon Pedley; 3.30 E, Gray in F minor, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Pièce héroïque (Franck).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), The Lord gave the word (Handel), The Lord will come (Tye), Prelude in C minor (Bach), The Dean; 3.45 E, Pieces (Byrd), And he shall purify (Handel), Prelude and Fugue in E (Lubeck).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), The Chancellor; 1.15 M, Sumsion in B flat, Rejoice in the Lord always (Purcell), The Dean; 3.45 E, Wood in D, Lacrymosa (Requiem) (Mozart), Fugue in D minor (Bach).

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for Five Voices (Byrd), Advent Prose (Lloyd), Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Preb Geoffrey Wynne; 3.30 E, Ireland in F, Bring us, O Lord God (Harris).

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 12.15 Euch, Rev SP Kirk; 9 Parish Euch, Rev SP Kirk; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis in b flat (Mozart), Teach me, O Lord (Attwood), The Canon; 3.30 Choral E, Second Service (Tomkins), This is the record of John (Gibbons); 6.30 Parish E, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8 Litany; 8.15 HC; 9.30 M, Benedicite in F (Ashfield); 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), The Dean; 3.30 E, Purcell in G Minor, Thy word is a lantern (Purcell).

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams), E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come (Manz), Adam Lay y-bounden (Ord), Canon Ivor Smith Cameron; 3 E, Wood in F (Collegium Regale), Vox dicentis (Naylor), Canon Roy White.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), O bone Jesu (Radcliffe), Rev P de N Lucas; 11.30 M, Benedicite (Harris in A), Benedictus (Ireland in C), O most merciful (Bullock); 3 E, Chichester Service (Walton), Lacrymosa, dies illa (Mozart), Very Rev R Lewis.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Jubilate in B flat (Stanford), Benedicite in B flat (Sumsion), Rev Robert Hughes; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Missa Aedis Christi (Howells), A new commandment (Leddington Wright), Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland (Bach), Rev Paul Ferguson; 3 E, Magnificat quinti toni (Praetorius), Nunc Dimittis primi toni (Victoria), Thy word is a lantern (Purcell), Canon Anthony Harvey; 5.45 Organ duet recital; 6.30 Service for Human Rights, Canon Anthony Harvey.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7, M; 10.30 Solemn M, Asperges me (Plainsong), Missa Ave maris stella (Victoria), Rorate caeli desuper (Byrd), Canite tuba in Sion (Palestrina), Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr (Bach); 10 MP; 2.30 Organ recital; 3.30 Solemn V&B, Magnificat octavi toni (Morales), Rorate caeli desuper (Palestrina), Kommst du nun, Jesu (Bach).

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 11 Choral Euch, Missa "Euge Bone" (Tye), Propers (Plainsong), A spotless rose (Howells), Wachet auf (Bach), Rev Fr Paul Kinsey; 3.30 Choral E, Stanford in C, And the Glory of the Lord (Messiah) (Handel).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 6, LM; 10 Family M; 11.30 Solemn Mass, Plainsong, Ave Verum (Byrd), Fr Patrick Turner.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Benedicite and Jubilate (Purcell in B flat), Rev Michael Saward; 11.30 HC, Missa Bella Amfitrit' altera (Lassus), Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes (Attwood); 3.15 E, Darke in F, Behold, all flesh is as the grass (Brahms), Magnificat primi toni (Buxtehude), Rev John Moore.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Simile est regnum caelorum (Lobo), Rejoice in the Lord alway (anon), Frank Field MP; 6 E&B, Short Service (Gibbons), How dear are they counsels (Crotch), Vicar.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11 Family Service, Rev Chris Hobbs; 6.30 Rev Preb Richard Bewes.

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 9.45 Sunday School; 11 Worship, Rev James Schmidt.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 HC, Rev Stanley Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.30, 4.30, 7M; 3.30 V&B.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11 MS & HC, Rev Dr Gordon E Barritt & Rev Paul Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 LBC Christmas Service Recording; 6.30 Rev Dr R John Tudor.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev Ronald T Englund; 2 Swahili Service, Rev David Nsweve; 7 Choral Mass, Missa Dominicarum Adventus et Quadresima (Manuel Cardoso), Rev Dr Sebon Goodridge.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11, 6.30 Choral Euch, Rev Anthony Winter.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Dyson in F, Whitlock in G, The angel Gabriel (Rathbone), Canon John Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Handel's Messiah (Part 1).

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Service, Rev John H McIndoe; 6.30 Service, Rev Eleanor J McMahon.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 Sung M, Mass (Stravinsky), Laetentur caeli (Byrd), Fancy in C (Byrd).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Victoria), O thou, the Central Orb (Darlow), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Willis), Rejoice in the Lord (Anon), Rev Graham Buckle; 6 Choral E & Ministry of Healing, Fauxbourdons (Andreas), People, look East (Trad), Rev Bill Wilson.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 10 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Jesu, flos matris (Palestrini), Rev Joe Humble.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev Bernhard Schunemann; 11.30 Visitors to London Service, Vicar; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev Gilbert Lee; 3 Salvation Army Carol Service; 5.30 Blessing of the Crib in Trafalgar Square; 6.30 ES, Rev John Pridmore.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Choral Euch, Darke in A minor, Lo, in the time appointed (Willan), Rev David Burton Evans.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Messe Basse (Fauré), Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré), Lord, what love have I (Croft), Van Tim Stevens.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa Secunda (Hassler), Aspiciens a longe (Palestrina), Canite tuba in Sion (Guerrero), Fr Neil Cocking.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Te Deum (Chant), Jubilate (John Gardner), Ne irascaris, Domine (Byrd), Canon J G M W Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Darke in A Minor, Canon J O Colling.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 M; 11 Choral Euch, Stanford in C, Ave verum corpus (Mozart).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch, Mass for Four Voices (Byrd), Exsurge, Domine (Byrd), Offertoire (Couperin), Canon JR Porter.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Stanford in B flat, Rev Jeremy Caddick.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Sumsion in D, Walford Davies in G, Wachet auf (Bach), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Choral HC, Wachet Auf (Bach), Missa Brevis (Monteverdi), Audivi media nocte (Tallis), Spirit of Pageantry (Fletcher), Band of the Blues and Royals, Rev Derek Bailey.

Memorial services

Mrs Frances Perry
A memorial service for Mrs Frances Perry was held yesterday at Jesus Church, Forty Hill, Enfield. Prebendary Peter Pytches officiated. Mr Roger Perry, son, and Mrs Janet Browne read the lessons. Lord Aberconway, Mr Charles Kingdom and Mr Charles Lyte gave addresses.

Miss Anne Smith
A memorial service for Miss Anne Smith was held yesterday at All Souls, Langham Place. The Rev John Cook, Mary McEvoy, Mrs Helen Sperling and Mrs Julie Jones, read the lessons. Mr Malcolm Billings, chairman of the parents' association, read from the works of John Donne and the Hon Lady Goodhart, principal, gave an address.

Mr D.E. Wilde
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Derek Edward Wilde was held yesterday at the Church of St Mary Woolnoth, Lombard Street. The Rev Richard Hayes officiated. Miss Margaret Harrison and Mr Noel McCann read the lessons. Sir John Quinton gave an address.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Duke of Edinburgh, as Colonel-in-Chief, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire), will attend the Regiment's 250th anniversary celebrations in Reading, at 10.30.

TOMORROW: The Duke of Edinburgh, as Colonel, Grenadier Guards, will attend the Laying Up of the Colours of the 2nd Battalion at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at 2.45.

Service dinners

HAC
General Sir Edward Jones and Rear-Admiral J.J.R. Tod were the guests and speakers at a dinner of the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club held last night at Armoury House. Major P.C. Jones, president, was in the chair. Mr J.W.G. Challis, vice-president, also spoke.

1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery
Past and present members of 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery held their annual Reunion Dinner at Woolwich last night. General Sir Martin Farndale, the Master Gunner, was the Principal Guest.

Appointments

Emma Rothschild to the board of the British Council. She is a senior research fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

Alan John McCarry to be a full-time Chairman of Industrial Tribunals, assigned to the London South Region.

Alastair Service to be Chairman, Wessex Regional Health Authority, in succession to Sir Robin Buchanan.

Forthcoming marriages

Sir Adrian Cadbury and Miss S.J. Sinclair
The engagement is announced between Adrian Cadbury, of Knowle, West Midlands, and Susan Sinclair, of Marylebone, London.

Mr D.R. Carr and Miss R.L. Hay
The engagement is announced between Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs R. Carr, of Surrey, and Robyn, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.D. Hay, of Brisbane, Australia.

Mr B.T. Cunningham and Miss C.D. Juckes
The engagement is announced between Ben, son of Michael and Dinah Cunningham, of King's Lynn, and Celia, daughter of Tom and Elizabeth Juckes, of Little Barrington.

Major T.L. Gall, RNZCT, and Miss S. Longbottom
The engagement is announced between Tim, son of the late Commander J. Gall, RN, and of Mrs D.V. Gall, of Nelson, New Zealand, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.B. Longbottom, of Canterbury, Kent.

Mr D.A. Ireland and Miss K.M. Brzeskwinski
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs N.C. Ireland, of Ascot, Berkshire, and Krystyna, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.F. Brzeskwinski, of Broadstairs, Kent.

Mr T.S.N. Love and Miss B.J. Williams
The engagement is announced between Tristram, elder son of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs P.S.J. Love, of Baltonsborough, Somerset, and Belinda, second daughter of Mr and Mrs R.A. Williams, of Plympton, Devon.

Mr M.G. Oakshott and Miss S.A. Learmont
The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Oakshott, of North Waltham, Hampshire, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs David Learmont, of Colchester, Essex.

Mr R. O'Connor and Miss C.M. Ardley
The engagement is announced between Ronan, youngest son of Mr and Mrs F. O'Connor, of Ballycastle, Northern Ireland, and Claire Marie, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Ardley, of Wallington, Surrey.

Mr H.J.L. Paul and Miss L.M. Carvill
The engagement is announced between Hector Joel Lancaster, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Paul, of Buckland Village, Buckinghamshire, and Lucy Mary, only daughter of Mr Michael Meade Carvill, of Shankill, County Dublin, Ireland, and of Mrs Kathleen Carvill, of Slane, County Meath, Ireland.

Luncheon

Saints and Sinners Club
The American Ambassador was the principal guest at the Saints and Sinners Christmas luncheon held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. Mr Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, chairman, Mr Mark Nicholas and Mr Neil Benson were the speakers.

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Live at peace among yourselves. We urge you, friends, to rebuke the idle, encourage the faint-hearted, support the weak, and be patient with everyone.
1 Thessalonians 5 : 13,14 (REB)

BIRTHS

ALLISON - On 2nd December, to Sarah and Simon, a son, Thomas Alexander.

CHARRINGTON - On 15th November 1993, at Layer Marney Tower, to Sheila (née Mallinson) and Nicholas, a daughter, Grace Elizabeth, a sister for Alice and Hannah.

CUTLER - On October 18th to Alison (née Bolton) and Peter, a wonderful daughter, Natasha Jane.

EMBLETON - On November 29th 1993, to Melissa (née Quilter) and Dennis, a son, Dennis Harry Faraday (Harry).

EVERINGTON - Peter and Pilar are very happy to announce the birth of Alexander Devas, a brother for Nicholas and Isabelle, on Friday 3rd December, 1993. Many Thanks to all the staff at Matilda Hospital.

FOSTER - On 26th November at Frimley Park Hospital, to Janet (née Munro) and Stephen, a son, Matthew Henry, a brother for Jamie.

GOODWIN - On 3rd November to Chris and Janine, a daughter, Georgina Alice, a sister for William.

HAMILL - On 1st December 1993, to Kathryn (née Hill) and Hugh, a lovely daughter, Melissa Elizabeth.

NURSE - On December 1st at Melbourne, Australia to Serena (née Williams) and Richard, a daughter, Cicely Kate.

PARDOE - On 3rd December 1993 to Sebastian and Amanda, a son, Harry, a brother for Charlie.

PARKINSON - On December 2nd 1993, to Fionnuala (née Maguire) and Robert, a daughter Juliette Mary, sister to Marianne.

ROBOTHAM - On November 29th, 1993, at Queen Charlottes and Chelsea Hospital to Vivien and Michael a daughter Alexandra Hope.

SUTTON - On 1st December to Nicola (née Barton) and Adrian, a son, Cameron Peter.

ZDATNY - On November 26th, in Rock Island, Illinois, to Sophie (née Huntington-Whiteley) and Steven, a son, Samuel Oliver, a brother for Isabelle.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

GAETE:HOLMES - On December 5th, 1943, at Saint Andrew's Church, Santiago, Chile. Ricardo Gaete-Bahr to Ines Paisley Holmes. Congratulations, the family.

DEATHS

BHAVYANANDA - On December 2nd at St Mary's Paddington Swami Bhavyananda a monk of the Ramakrishna Order and President of the Ramakrishna Vedanta Centre UK. Cremation at Amersham Crematorium at 12.30 pm December 11th. Donations for Relief Work in India preferred or flowers to the Vedanta Centre, Bourne End, Bucks.

BISHOP - On 30th November, 1993, peacefully in Kings Lynn. Helen Mary aged 79 of Hunstanton. Widow of the late T.H. Bishop formerly of Rangemore. A much loved sister, aunt, great aunt and friend. Funeral Service at Mintlyn Crematorium, Kings Lynn on Wednesday 8th December at 11.30 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired for The British Red Cross or The R.N.L.I. (Hunstanton) c/o John Lincoln F/D, 40 Greevegate, Hunstanton, Norfolk.

BOUCHER - On November 30th 1993, at home, peacefully after a short illness. Cecily, widow of Anthony, beloved mother of John, Mary and Anne, and much loved grandmother. Requiem Mass to be held at The Sacred Heart Church, Vicarage Road, Henley-on-Thames at 2 pm Wednesday December 8th.

CHATER - On December 2nd, peacefully after a long illness borne with infinite courage, humour and dignity, Alison "Bunty" (née Scott). Adored wife of Robin, mother of Angus and Judy, sister of Joan, Ian and Donald. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh on Friday December 10th at 3 pm. Please no flowers, donations to York Road Surgery Home Nursing Fund, c/o Surgery Manager, York Road Surgery, York Road, Southwold, IP18 6AN.

COCKBURN - Dr. William Charles Cockburn M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.(E), D.P.H., one time director public health laboratory Colindale, formerly director divison of communicable disease world health organisation Geneva. Died 24th November in Edinburgh. A family funeral has taken place, his ashes lie in Marnoch Cemetery.

GIBBS - On 2nd December in Stratford-on-Avon. Evelyn aged 91. Sister of Lily Adela, Malcolm and Amy and loved aunt of Zoe, Thea and Bim.

GREENWELL - Bengy. Beloved husband of the late Diana and loving father of Jane and Mary, died peacefully on December 2nd. Private Cremation at Chichester on Tuesday December 7th at 4.30 pm. Service of Thanksgiving at All Hallows Church Tillington, West Sussex on December 9th at 12 noon. No flowers please. Donations if desired to King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, West Sussex.

MARSHALL - Allan Walter, aged 71 years died peacefully 1.12.93 deeply loved and respected. Will be greatly missed. By request - family funeral, no flowers but donations to Cancer or British Heart Foundation would be appreciated. "United we conquer".

MILLER - On December 2nd, peacefully after a tremendous battle against a cruel illness, Patrick Noel, much loved father of sons Paul and Michael, grandchildren Jonathan, Claire and Josh, and daughters-in-law, Patricia and Sandy. At last rejoins his beloved Peggy. Donations to the Parkinson's Disease Society c/o Tony Brown's Funeral Service, Saxmundham, Suffolk.

PARNELL - Thomas Arthur, on 30th November 1993 after a short illness. Sadly missed by his family. Funeral at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, on Monday 6th December at 4 pm. Flowers welcome.

PATTINSON-WILLIAM PRATT - On December 1st 1993, suddenly, aged 89. Loving husband and lifelong friend of Elaine, beloved father and grandfather. Funeral service, Calvia, Mallorca.

POLLOCK - Peacefully at her home, Winderwath, Penrith, on Friday 3rd December, after a short illness, Barbara, aged 91 years. Dearly loved wife of the late David, dearest mother of Bridget, Catherine and Jane and a sadly missed grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral Service and interment at St. Cuthbert's Church, Cliburn on Wednesday, 8th December at 2.30 pm. Memorial Service arrangements to follow. Please, no flowers, if desired donations may be made to Rydal Hall, Diocesan Conference Centre, c/o Walkers Funeral Directors, Tynefield House, Penrith.

PRICE - On 2nd December, suddenly in London, Richard Henry (Dickie) aged 49 years of Monmouth. Loving husband of Sally, father of Guy, Toby and Tom. Funeral Service at St. Mary's Church, Monmouth on Thursday, 9th December at 11.30 am followed by interment at Monmouth Cemetery. Donations for St. Mary's Church, Monmouth may be given at the service or sent to David Stockwell, Funeral Director, 16 Glendower Street, Monmouth, Gwent.

SALISBURY - On December 2nd, Alan Wood, aged 75, Chartered Accountant, of South Woodford. Funeral, Towcester Parish Church, Tuesday December 7th at 2.15.

SANDFORD - On December 3rd, Lettice, died peacefully at home, aged 90. Greatly loved. Family Cremation and Burial. Service of Thanksgiving at Eye Church on Saturday December 11th at 2.30 pm. Flowers c/o Mann, Leominster or, donations to Eye Church.

SAXON - On 2nd December 1993, peacefully in hospital, Edward, aged 87 years. Funeral Service at Beckenham Crematorium, Thursday, 9th December at 3pm. Flowers or Donations to Age Concern c/o J. & R. Killick Ltd, 112 High Street, West Wickham, Kent. 081 777 4502

SCOTT - Howard Wardlaw, peacefully at home in Durham, on 2nd December. Beloved husband of Adele, father of Pam and Jill, grandfather of Giles, Helen, Patrick and Nicholas. Funeral to take place at Durham Crematorium Chapel on Tuesday 7th December at 10 am followed by interment in South Road Cemetery. No flowers please but donations would be gratefully received by the Parkinson's Disease Society. No letters please.

WAPLES - On December 1st, suddenly at home, Brian Leslie, aged 61 years. Adored husband of Judy, beloved father of Christopher, John and Justin, father-in-law to Julia, Tracey and Amanda, dearest Papa to Thomas, Katie and William. Private family funeral. Thanksgiving Service to be held at St. Andrew's Church, Much Hadham on Friday 10th December at 12 noon. No flowers please but donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation, c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons Ltd., 79/81 South Street, Bishop's Stortford. Tel: 0279 655 477.

WINSOR-CUNDELL - At the Moore Cottage Hospital Bourton-on-the-Water on Wednesday December 1st 1993. Dorothy Ellen, aged 87 years. Beloved wife of the late Reverend Winsor-Cundell, mother of Michael and grandmother of Emma. Funeral service in St. Edward's Parish Church Stow-on-the-Wold Thursday December 9th at 2.30pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for St. Edward's Church c/o the Reverend F. Rothery, The Rectory, Sheep Street, Stow-on-the-Wold, Cheltenham Glos.

RUMBOLD - Sir Anthony (Tony) Rumbold 10th Bt. KCMG, KCVO, CB. Died on this day December 1983. Remembered and loved today and all days. Pauline.

SLATER - In grateful memory of my father Arthur Slater who died on December 3rd 1951 aged 73 years. Arthur Walter Slater.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

MARCUS - A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Sgt. Major Daniel Howard Marcus, beloved grandson of Dame Shirley and Sir Leslie Porter, will be held at Carmel College on Sunday, 12 December. Those wishing to attend, please contact Ruth Silver on 071 624 5480 (fax 071 624 5564) or Sandy Watson on 071 333 2345 (fax 071 333 2349).

IN MEMORIAM — WAR

BURGESS - Killed December 5th 1943 Pilot Officer John Burgess 1409 (Met) Flight, Pathfinder Force. In loving memory, Freda.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

COHEN-ANDRÉ - Erna (Andrée) who passed away on December 5th 1992. Dearly beloved mother of Kathrine, mother-in-law of Henry and grandmother of Anthony. Always in our thoughts and sadly missed.

MAIN - Betty (Betty Laron) beloved wife of Neville Main died December 4th 1972.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDINBURGH. Splendid apartment for 2/4 in Old Town with Castle view. Now booking for Christmas and 1994. Tel: 031 228 9464 Fax 031 228 9467

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BIRTHDAYS

ANDREW: 21 years of joy! Thank you for being you. Happy Birthday Son. Lots of love. Mum, Dad and Victoria.

2 eights and a four need a stroke of luck to make 21. Happy birthday tomorrow darling.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE No.009088 of 1993
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF NORTH ATLANTIC SMALLER COMPANIES INVESTMENT TRUST PLC
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 24th November 1993 confirming (a) the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £1,350,000 to £640,000 and (b) the cancellation of its share premium account and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 26th November 1993.
Dated the 4th day of December 1993
Allen & Overy, 9 Cheapside, London EC2V 6AD
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

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TICKETS FOR SALE
When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment. Most sports tickets are subject to strict re-sale and transfer rules.

3 TENORS Concert, Los Angeles July 16th 1994, One Pair tickets. Ring 071 602 8787.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ANDREWS CATHERINE MAUD of 15 Elvaston Place, London SW7, died on 3rd June 1992. Particulars to D.B. Morris & Co. Solicitors of 25 Golden Square, London W1R 5PA before 11th Feb 1994.

BOTCHIN, REUBEN of 11 Gloucester Gardens, Cockfosters, Herts. Died on 25th August 1993. Particulars to Syndney Howard & Co. Solicitors of 21 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, London N20 9HE, before 7th February 1994.

DAVIES - PHYLLIS IVY of Nightingale Nursing Home, Aylestone Lane, Wigston Magna, Leicestershire, formerly of 68 Main Street, Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire died on 12th October 1993. Particulars to Philip J. Hammond & Sons Solicitors of 47 Friar Lane, Leicester LE1 5QX before 4th March 1994.

ESTATE OF THE LATE ETHEL JOAQUINA MONGER
Would any person claiming to be JOHN LUKE who was born on 29th August 1891 at York in the State of Western Australia and EVELINA MONGER LUKE who was born on 29th January 1889 at York in the State of Western Australia, cousins of the above named deceased, and believed to now reside in England or Scotland or any person knowing the whereabouts of John Luke or Evelina Monger Luke or Executors to the estates of John Luke or Evelina Monger Luke if deceased please contact Perpetual Trustees W.A. Limited of 89 St.George's Terrace, Perth, 6001, Western Australia within two months of the date of publication of this advertisement quoting reference DG.1510/1511.

LANGFORD-HOLT SIR JOHN ANTHONY, 20 Brook Avenue, New Milton, Hampshire, died 23rd July; particulars to Middleton & Upsall, Solicitors, 2 North Parade, Frome, Somerset, BA11 1AT before expiry of 2 months from the date of publication of this notice.

LAURA SACHS of Flat 30, Glenmor Rathbone House, Avenue Road, London N6, Widow. Died 21st June, 1993. Particulars to: Black, Graf & Co, 14/18 College Crescent, London NW3 5LL. Name of Administrator: MRS VERONICA SINGER, 61 Constantine Road, London, NW3 2LP. Date on or before which Notices must be given: 10th February 1994.

YOUNG, PHYLLIS, 90 Queens Avenue, Flint, Clwyd died on 5th February 1993; Particulars of any creditors to Messrs Bartlett and Son, Solicitors, 16 Nicholas Street, Chester, CH1 2NX Ref EJB before 14th February 1994.

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OBITUARIES

VICTOR MACKLEN

Victor Macklen, CB, nuclear scientist, died on November 25 aged 74. He was born on July 13, 1919.

FOR nearly forty years, Victor Macklen was a leading member of the nuclear scientific community in the UK, leaving his mark particularly on policy aspects of the military uses of atomic energy. His major achievement was his tireless lobbying for the development of the Chevaline system for Britain's Polaris missiles. This extended their life and enabled them to be effective against the increasingly sophisticated air defence systems which were being developed to protect Moscow from attack.

Macklen entered the defence world as a scientist in 1949, when he moved sideways from the Army (where he had reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel) to the Army Operational Research Unit in the British Army of the Rhine. In 1954 he became a member of Sir Frederick Brundrett's small scientific staff in the old Ministry of Defence, and from then until 1960 he was at the centre of attempts to renew the co-operation with the United States in nuclear warhead design which had ceased in the wake of the atomic spy cases.

His efforts culminated in the conclusion of the 1958 US-UK Agreement for Co-operation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defence Purposes. This permitted the UK to purchase nuclear submarine propulsion technology, and still governs the intimate exchanges with the US on nuclear warhead design and fabrication, which have proved so beneficial to the UK.

In 1960 Macklen left the Ministry of Defence to join Sir William Cook in the Atomic Energy Authority as Head of Technical Services in the Reactor Group at Risley. As Cook's right-hand man, he assisted in the attempts to reach a policy on second-generation civil reactors.

He also worked on nuclear safeguards and tried to ensure that the International Atomic Energy Agency system would be rational and cost-effective. In 1967 he followed Cook back into the MoD central scientific staff, and remained there for the next 12 years until he retired in 1979.

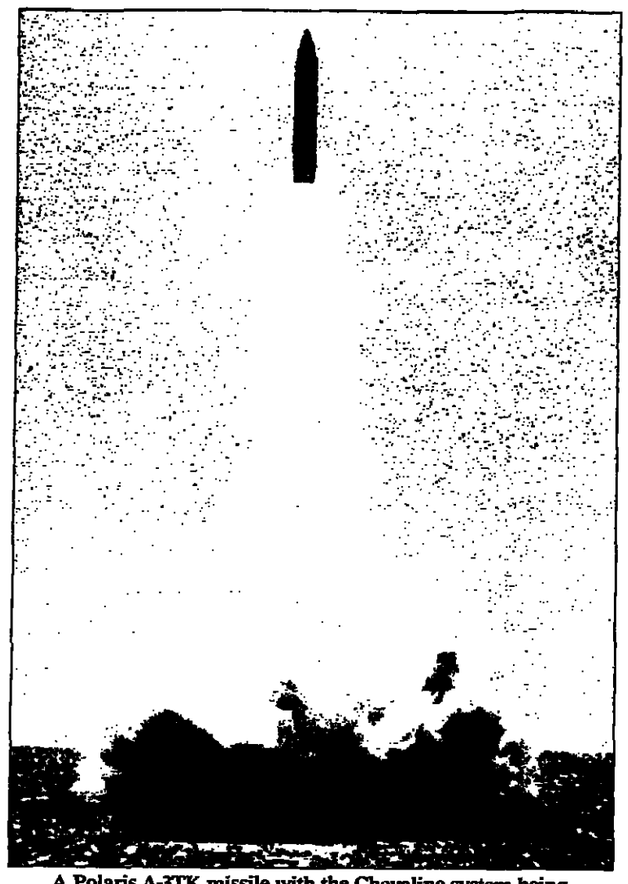
As Assistant Chief Scientific Adviser (Studies and Nuclear) and then as Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser (Projects and Nuclear) under three successive chief scientific advisers, his range of activities covered the whole of defence science. He made significant contributions on the non-nuclear side, particularly in respect of collaboration in Nato on defence projects, but his chief interest was always nuclear.

By the early 1970s he had been given total responsibility for research, development, design and production of nuclear warheads, including the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment's programme of work, and that of the two nuclear Royal Ordnance factories. His constant aim was to ensure the continuing credibility of the UK as a nuclear weapon power, and to cherish the exchanges with the US under the 1958 agreement. He was also able, through his civil reactor experience, to have some influence on naval nuclear reactor programmes.

In 1970 it began to appear that Soviet anti-ballistic missile deployment round Moscow threatened the credibility of the UK's deterrent. Macklen championed a research and development programme, mainly based on AWRE, into penetration aids and decoys as a possible means of restoring the ability of Polaris to penetrate Soviet defences. That programme led to the definition of Chevaline, a replacement for the all-warhead payload of Polaris, which was designed so to overwhelm and confuse Soviet defences that penetration of a sufficient number of live warheads would be assured.

An alternative solution was to buy Poseidon, the US replacement for Polaris, which carried more warheads and would therefore restore penetrability against the ABM defences. Officials and successive governments of both parties, wrestled indecisively with the problem for over three years, during which time the Chevaline option was kept open by drip-feed of the funding, often month by month — hardly an efficient way to make progress on a complex programme.

Macklen waged a strong campaign for Chevaline, partly because he believed that Chevaline could do the job and was available, and partly on the ground that there was no sure evidence that the US, heavily involved as it was at that time with nuclear arms control discussions with the USSR, would be willing to sell Poseidon with its advanced Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicle Technology, to the UK. Then there were those who believed that nothing should or need be done.



A Polaris A-3TK missile with the Chevaline system being launched from the submerged submarine *Revenge* in 1983

Eventually, in 1975, a Labour government was persuaded to opt for Chevaline, and the system was successfully developed and is still in service. Arguments may still be heard about the secrecy surrounding the early stages of the Chevaline programme, the way in which costs escalated, and whether or not Poseidon could have been bought, but the fact remains that Chevaline maintained the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent and its vital contribution to Nato throughout the past decade. In a political climate of ambiguity about the continued possession of nuclear weapons, Macklen's strength of purpose and pertinacity was instrumental in ensuring the continuing credibility of the UK as a nuclear power.

Testing began in 1977 and the first submerged submarine launches of the A-3TK Polaris missile equipped with the Chevaline system took place from HMS *Renown* in 1982. These were followed, in 1983, by more launches from the submarine *Revenge*.

In 1980 Macklen entered active retirement. As chairman of the Ministry of Defence's two independent nuclear safety committees, he used his unrivalled experience to guide their work with wisdom and foresight, and he continued to give invaluable advice at political and technical levels until he gave up both posts in 1992.

In 1980-81 he worked as special assistant to the chairman of British Aerospace, and he occupied a similar post at British Telecom from 1981 to 1987 over the critical period of its transition to a commercial company. Locally, in Kent, he chaired the Hartlip Parish Council for several years, and he was president of the local branch of the British Legion. In his spare time, he was a very talented carpenter.

Macklen drove himself, and all who worked with him, very hard. He had no sympathy with faint hearts. His analytical intelligence, his singleness of purpose, his somewhat gallows humour, made him a most formidable advocate or opponent. While some may feel that at times he was unnecessarily aggressive, he was always seeking to get the job done in the most efficient way. It cannot be doubted that, whatever his methods, he made a major contribution to the nuclear defence of the UK and Nato in the Cold War period.

Macklen was appointed CB in 1975. He was also awarded a Medal of Merit by the US Department of Defense, a signal honour for a British subject.

He was devoted to his wife Scylla, and their daughter Sarah. Both survive him.

PATRICK LIBBY

Patrick Libby, opera director, died from lung cancer on November 29 aged 51. He was born on March, 15, 1942.

EVERYTHING about Patrick Libby had the stamp of excellence. He was a distinguished opera director and set-designer who began to reveal his talents when he was scarcely out of his teens. When he was 21 he formed a dance company with Gillian Lynne called Collages which they took to the Edinburgh Festival in 1963. He was also a considerable artist, painting pictures that people actually bought. Furthermore he was handsome, charming and made excellent jokes besides, as befits a generous nature, invariably being ready to laugh at other people's.

He went to St George's College, Weybridge, and on to Kingston College of Art before landing a job as film set director at Shepperton Studios.

Where this artistic flair came from is a bit of a mystery. His father practised as a chartered surveyor, one of his younger twin brothers is an architect and the other a psychiatrist and professor of anatomy. There is an educationalist tradition in the family — a great grandfather was a founder member of the Shaftesbury Society — which came out strongly in Patrick. He had a gift for spotting and nurturing talent in the young and taught at both the National Opera Studio and the Guildhall School of Music. His energy and humour were probably inherited. Although never anything so unseemly as to be remotely boisterous, he was always eager to entertain.

Part of his serious apprenticeship was served in the early 1960s under Antony Besch. He was his production assistant on *L'Arlesienne*, Daudet's play with incidental music by Bizet, which Besch directed for the John Lewis Partnership at their little theatre in the Oxford Street store. It was the only occasion the work has been performed on stage in England and created intense interest. As a result, Libby worked with increasing responsibility on several productions directed by Besch at Sadler's Wells.

His wit and vigour combined with scholarship and lightness of touch were quickly recognised and he soon moved into the big time himself. He directed *Cost fan Tutte* and Berg's *Wozzeck* at the Met followed by another production of *Wozzeck* at Covent Garden. He went to the San Francisco Opera to produce *Il Trovatore* with Sutherland and Pavarotti and over to Wexford to direct a number of pieces before settling down at Glyndebourne.

Once, only once, in New York, he was closely associated with a flop but soon picked himself up off the floor and then never stopped working. There was the Italian première of Handel's *Tamerlano*; Haydn's *Lo Speciale* and a particularly sparkling production of Mozart's *La Finta Semplice*. He was the first director of productions for ENO North. Earlier this year he went to Hong Kong to produce Handel's *Semele* following it with a scintillating production of *La Bohème*.

In his private life Libby moved in a rather privileged world. His friends were artists and musicians like Maggie Hambling and Jane Glover. There was a touch of the *homme du monde* and he enjoyed the company of the affluent and worldly, so long as they were cultivated and liberal-minded, such as his good friend Princess Margaret of Hesse, president of the Aldeburgh Foundation. He never married but he was very proud of a fine gaggle of godchildren. He was a strong swimmer, especially from yachts in warm Greek waters. He took absolutely no notice of repeated exhortations from his friends to lay off the Gauloises.

LADY REDCLIFFE-MAUD



Sir John and Lady Maud, 1959

Lady Redcliffe-Maud, pianist, died on November 6 aged 89. She was born in Melrose, the Borders, on March 6, 1904.

KNOWN in musical circles by her maiden name of Jean Hamilton, Lady Redcliffe-Maud was a professional concert pianist of no small talent who married John Maud, one of the outstanding administrators of his day. She helped him unstintingly in all the various stages of his career — as academic, civil servant, ambassador and finally as head of an Oxford college.

The daughter of a schoolmaster, Jean Hamilton was educated at St Mary's, Melrose, and at St Leonards in the best Scottish tradition. She loved books and might have gone on to read literature but decided instead to study the piano under Harold Samuel at the Royal College of Music. In 1923 she first visited Oxford with a friend. Standing at the top of the tower of the University Church, she saw the whole city in all its splendour and determined to live there, despite strong resistance from her teachers at the Royal College. "Who will teach you?" they asked. "You'll be as bad as Boris Ord" (the organist and choirmaster of King's College, Cambridge).

Jean Hamilton ignored this gloomy prediction and studied for a degree in music at Somerville, at the same time as earning her living as a pianist, and giving recitals all over the country with the singer Stuart Wilson. Afterwards she spent a winter studying with the harpsichord virtuoso Wanda Landowska in Paris, and for two years with the Austrian pianist and composer Artur Schnabel in Berlin.

Before leaving Oxford Jean Hamilton had met a high-flying young research fellow, two years her junior, at University College called John Maud. The couple became engaged and six years later, in 1932, they married. They took their honeymoon in South Africa, after Maud had been awarded the Rhodes travelling scholarship, returning afterwards to Oxford.

During the war, while her husband worked for the Ministry of Food, she played all over the country at army camps and remote stations, towns and villages. She also performed in the series of Myra Hess lunchtime concerts at the National Gallery. Afterwards she toured occupied Germany on behalf of the RAF Malcolm Clubs, entertaining servicemen and giving a moving concert at the hospital for Jewish survivors of the Belsen concentration camp.

In the 1950s she moved with her husband, who was now permanent secretary at the Ministry of Fuel and Power, to St John's Wood. In London she was known as a regular on the concert hall circuit, often appearing at the Wigmore Hall and giving concerts with Peter Pears and Benjamin Britten, both lifelong friends.

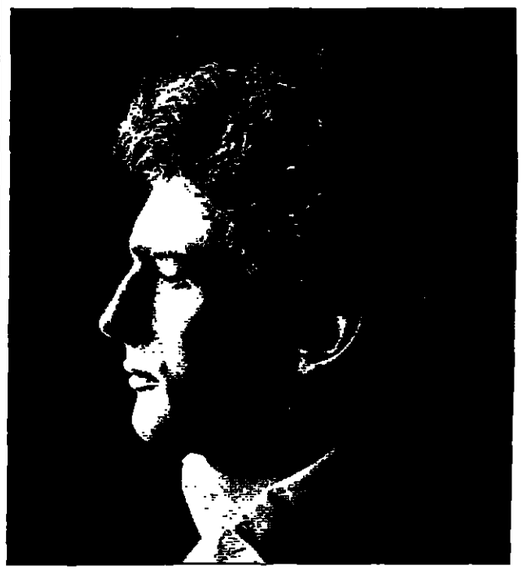
She also joined in setting up the Rural Music Schools Association in the early 1950s, which, from its headquarters at Little Benslow Hills in Hertfordshire, aimed to provide lessons for children living in remote areas.

But it was with her husband's move from Whitehall to the post of High Commissioner in South Africa in 1959 that Jean Hamilton's talents were really stretched. This was a particularly delicate time in South African politics and Sir John Maud took great care to offend neither the Afrikaners nor their Nationalist party leaders, while disagreeing profoundly with their policies. (He could not, however, prevent South Africa leaving the Commonwealth which it did in 1961, converting him from being a high commissioner to being the first British ambassador.)

Still at the height of her powers musically, Jean Hamilton's career in South Africa necessarily took a back seat to her hostessing duties: but there is no doubt that her informal concerts at the embassy went a long way to bridge any political differences among her diplomatic guests. Both official residences in Cape Town and Pretoria had grand pianos, but it was always said of her that she could coax a good performance from any instrument in Africa. In this way she raised substantial amounts for the Save the Children Fund, Oxfam and the Red Cross.

The couple returned to England in 1963, Maud becoming Master of University College, Oxford, where he remained, being created a life peer in 1967, until 1976. At "Univ." Lady Redcliffe-Maud transformed the gardens of the Master's Lodgings, and gave concerts at the Radcliffe Infirmary, at which she managed to persuade such stars as Nina Milkina, Manoug Parikian, George Malcolm, Peggy Ashcroft and John Betjeman to perform. She and her husband had founded the college musical society almost forty years earlier, and this continued to provide the university with some of its best performances. She was also a keen amateur painter, a letter-writer and produced four volumes of autobiography after her husband's death in 1982.

She is survived by one son and one of her three daughters, the other two having predeceased her.



GUTHRIE MOIR

Guthrie Moir, former independent television executive, died on November 29 aged 76. He was born on October 30, 1917.

GUTHRIE MOIR was a former assistant controller and executive producer at Associated-Rediffusion and afterwards controller of educational and religious programmes at Thames Television. A man of dynamic character, he was deeply inspired by Christian ideals and sat in the General Synod from 1956 until incapacitated by an unfortunate accident in 1974, when he fell under a train at Tring station, Hertfordshire.

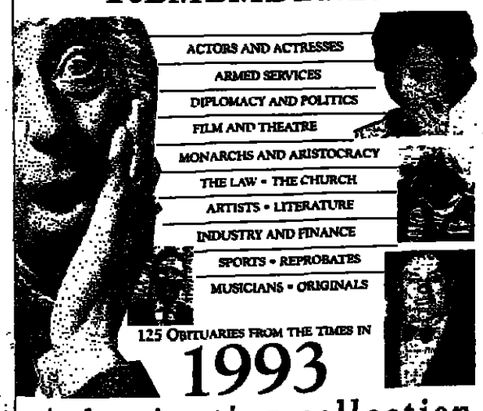
George Guthrie Moir was born in Scotland and educated at Berkhamsted School and Peterhouse, Cambridge. During the second world war he served in the Suffolk Regiment and was captured at Singapore, subsequently working on the Burma railway for three-and-a-half years. After the war he was active in youth organisations and served as chief cadet officer with St John Ambulance, under Lady Edwina Mountbatten. In 1950 he stood as Liberal candidate for Aylesbury; he also sat on Buckinghamshire County Council as an independent for over twenty years.

Among his noteworthy successes in television were *A Place in History* and *A Place in the Country*. In 1970 he became the first non-Roman Catholic to be awarded the Bene Merenti medal by the Pope for services to religious and educational television.

He married Sheila Ryan in 1951 by whom he had two daughters and a son.

THE TIMES

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Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: John Cotton, Puritan clergyman, (the Patriarch of New England), Derby, 1585; Thomas Carlyle, essayist and historian, Ecclefechan, Dumfriesshire, 1795; Samuel Butler, author of *The Way of All Flesh*, Langar Rectory, Nottinghamshire, 1835; Edith Cavell, nurse, Swardeston, Norfolk, 1865; Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, Prague, 1875; Katharine Susannah Prichard, novelist, Levuka, Fiji, 1883; Francisco Franco, dictator of Spain 1939-75, El Ferrol, Galicia, 1892; Sir Herbert Read, poet and critic, Kirbymoorside, Yorkshire, 1893.

DEATHS: Armand Jean, Duc de Richelieu, cardinal and statesman, Paris, 1642; William Drummond of Hawthornden, poet, Hawthornden, Lothian, 1649; Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, 1679; John Gay, poet, London, 1732; Luigi Galvani, physician and physicist, Bologna, 1798; Robert Banks Jenkinson, 2nd Earl of Liverpool, Prime Minister 1812-27, London, 1828; William Sturgeon, physicist, Prestwick, Lancashire, 1850; John Ayrton Paris, physician, London, 1856; Stefan George, poet, Mimusic, Switzerland, 1933; Thomas Morgan, biologist, Nobel laureate 1933, Pasadena, California, 1945; Benjamin Britten, Baron Britten, composer, Aldeburgh, 1976.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, statesman, London, 1661; Martin van Buren, 8th American President 1837-41, Kinderhook, New York, 1782; Christina Rossetti, poet, London, 1830; John Rushworth Jellicoe, 1st Earl Jellicoe, admiral of the fleet, Southampton, 1859; Josef Pilsudski, Chief of State of Poland 1918-22, Prime Minister 1926-28 and 1930, Zulow, Lithuania, 1867; Fritz Lang, film director, Vienna, 1890; Walt Disney, animated cartoonist and film producer, Chicago, 1901; Emeric Pressburger, film producer, Hungary, 1902; Otto Preminger, film director, Vienna, 1906.

DEATHS: Sir Henry Wotton, diplomat and poet, Eton, 1639; Sieur de la Verendrye, explorer in Canada, Montreal, 1749; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Vienna, 1791; Alexandre Dumas *père*, novelist, Puys, France, 1870; Sir Henry Tate, founder of the Tate Gallery, London, 1899; Claude Monet, painter, Giverney, France, 1926; Vachel Lindsay, poet, Springfield, Illinois, 1931.

The *Mary Celeste* was found abandoned, drifting in the Atlantic with a cargo of alcohol, 1872.

Weekend birthdays

Today

Mr Farhad Afshar, neurosurgeon, 52; the Marchioness of Anglesey, 69; Sir Stephen Barrett, diplomat, 62; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland, royal equerry, 70; Miss Ann Christopher, sculptor, 46; Mr Ronnie Corbett, comedian, 63; Mr Hywel Davies, jockey, 37; Vice-Admiral Sir David Dobson, 55; Miss Anke Huber, tennis player, 19; Miss Gemma Jones, actress, 51; Mr Clive Leach, chairman and chief executive, Tyne Tees Television, 59; Mr Richard Meade, three-day eventer, 55; Mr W.N. Menzies-Wilson, former chairman, Ocean Transport and Trading, 67; Miss Yvonne Minton, mezzo-soprano, 50; Professor Lord Morris of Castle Morris, 63; Dr A.L. Rowse, historian, 90; Miss Pamela Stephenson, comedienne, 43.

Tomorrow

Viscount Bridgeman, 63; Mr José Carreras, tenor, 47; Lord Chalfont, 74; Miss Lucie Clayton, model agent, 65; Mr P.J. Grant, chairman, Sun Life Assurance Society, 64; the Right Rev George Henderson, former Bishop of Argyll and The Isles and Primus of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, 72; Sir Peter Kitcat, former Secretary to the Speaker, 66; Mr Hanif Kureishi, writer, 39; Little Richard, singer and pianist, 58; the Earl of Longford, KG, 88; Mr Terry Maher, founder, Pemos, 58; Lord Matthews, 74; Mr Sheridan Morley, author and broadcaster, 52; Lord Napier and Ettrick, 63; Lord Nathan, 71; Lord Rotherwick, 81; Mr Jeremy Sandford, writer, 59; the Earl of Scarbrough, 61; Mr Harold Sebag-Montefiore, barrister, 69; Mr Bill Skitt, chief constable, Hertfordshire, 52.

THE ANARCHISTS

It was announced a day or two ago that the Anarchists did not intend to be deterred by the Home Secretary's prohibition from holding their projected meeting in Trafalgar-square yesterday. This threat came to a ridiculous *fiasco*. From 3 to 4 o'clock there was, it is true, an enormous number of persons assembled, but of the leaders of Anarchism, if the expression be not a contradiction, there were scarcely a score. One or two ladies and perhaps half-a-dozen men were selling copies of the *Commonweal*, *Justice*, the *Freethinker*, and other papers, and distributing leaflets. In the earlier part of the afternoon, order was easily maintained by a very small number of constables, but as occasion arose, or seemed likely to arise, the force was imperceptibly increased. Two or three men in succession ascended steps or railings with a view to making a speech, but were promptly removed by the constables, who were wise enough not to confer upon them the dignity of an arrest, but simply marched them round the square and prevented a recurrence of a similar attempt. It is said, however, that one or two men were conveyed to a police-station, but it cannot be said that there was any design to commit a breach of the peace. The police showed admirable temper, and gathering round the points of elevation effectually stopped the possibility of Anarchic or other oratory. A few boys or very young men, whether in sport or in expression of opinion, made some disturbance in the adjoining streets by loud cries of "Down with Asquith," and "Down with the police," and "Cheers for the starving workers," but they were very quickly cleared away. The crowd was at one time very thick on the high ground in front of the National Gallery, in front of Morley's Hotel, and in the direction of Whitehall, and during the whole time the square itself was full of idlers and interested spectators. Of real working men there were extremely few, whilst those who could readily be identified with the frustrated meeting scarcely numbered a dozen. At any moment order could have been restored by half-a-dozen police. It was, however, abundantly clear that the force immediately available was strong enough to quell even serious disorder, and some eight or ten mounted police rode two or three times round the square to clear the streets. At ten minutes past four the square and adjoining thoroughfares had reassumed their normal Sunday aspect.

ON THIS DAY

December 4 1893

The Home Secretary at this time was the Liberal H.H. Asquith, later to become Prime Minister: trouble in Trafalgar Square was only one of the questions with which he had to deal.

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 4 1993

ROBIN MAYES



Thames Water staff giving a final sweep to London's water ring main from Kempton to Mogdon which commences operation next year

NEWS

Princess leaves public arena

■ The Princess of Wales announced that she is largely withdrawing from the public eye. She is drastically cutting her royal and charity engagements from the end of the year, and will attempt to pursue a much more private life.

Pleading intolerable media intrusion, she told charity workers that she needed time and space to consider her future, and her first priority was her children............ Pages 1, 2, 3, 17

Slow progress at Dublin peace talks

■ John Major and Albert Reynolds kept their stalled Ulster peace hopes alive by edging towards a declaration which Ireland believes could end IRA violence. The negotiating process will continue in Brussels next week............ Pages 1, 2

Schools ticked off

Crook primary school in County Durham and Brookside special school in Derby became the first state schools judged to be failing their pupils under the government's new inspection regime. They both now face a possible take-over............ Pages 1, 5, 17

Costly scheme

An insurance company has been forced to pay £21,000 in compensation to a teacher who was wrongly advised to leave her occupational pension scheme and put her money into a personal scheme............ Pages 1, 21

Nadir case error

The row over the Asil Nadir fraud case resurfaced at Westminster when Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, admitted that privileged defence papers were twice circulated in error to the prosecution............ Page 1

Child seat fears

Thousands of children could be at risk of death or injury in child car seats that have been badly fitted............ Page 8

Blackmail victim

A retired solicitor was blackmailed by a prostitute into paying her more than £10,000..... Page 9

Soft-sell drive

This year's Christmas campaign against drink-driving will aim at public emotions............ Page 10

Gaza deadlock

The PLO has put off plans to nominate members of the new self-rule authority for Jericho and the Gaza Strip............ Page 15

Relief in Colombia

Hard as it was for Colombians to believe, Medellin saw the funeral of its most infamous son, drug lord Pablo Escobar, once thought to be invincible............ Page 11

Lethal devices

Landmines are proliferating out of control and will maim millions of innocent people in a third of the world's countries...... Pages 13, 17

Nato's new allies

Former East bloc nations gave a cool welcome to plans for greater ties with Nato............ Page 14

DIY divorce pack goes on sale

■ People who want to divorce can now buy a "do it yourself" pack, costing £9.99. The pack, devised by Eagle Legal Forms, has an instruction book and examples of all the forms needed to obtain a divorce. It will be updated to keep abreast of legal changes............ Page 9

BUSINESS

Mirror: The newspaper group has acquired control of its headquarters and adjacent buildings and intends to redevelop the site. Should plans go ahead, MGN could reap a huge profit.... Page 21

Saatchi & Saatchi: Charles Saatchi, the creative genius behind the rise of the advertising agency, is stepping out of the limelight by resigning from the board, at the age of 50, to become its honorary president............ Page 21

Marks & Spencer: Four more Marks and Spencer directors have garnered large profits by exercising executive share options, then selling. They made £1.3 million between them............ Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 10.3 points to 3234.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 81.7 to 82.1 after a rise from \$1.4792 to \$1.4912 and from DM2.5487 to DM2.5641............ Page 24

SPORT

Swimming: Karen Pickering of Great Britain won the women's 200m freestyle gold medal at the world short course championships in Palma in a Commonwealth record of 1min 56.25sec. Paul Palmer won a bronze in the men's 400m freestyle............ Pages 36, 40

Football: Simon Barnes wonders why Glenn Hoddle ever became a manager — "manifestly decent, intelligent, thoughtful, ungiven to public feuding and quietly religious, he seemed to have all the wrong qualifications"...... Page 38

Rugby Union: The New Zealand All Blacks finish their tour by playing the Barbarians at Cardiff today. David Hands looks at a fixture long associated with the ghosts of rugby past............ Page 40

Golf: Nick Price shot a second-round 66 to go seven strokes clear of Nick Faldo in the Sun City Million Dollar Challenge...... Page 36

WEEKEND

In the grotto: Alan Coren plays Santa, and discovers the temptation of absolute power......... Page 1

Beat it: Capoeira, a dance invented by slaves in Brazil, has brought its Latin beat to London......... Page 3

Baskets of cheer: Frances Bissell with suggestions for filling your own Christmas hampers.... Page 5

Bear necessities: Teddies go under the hammer; the price will depend on the "cuddle factor"......... Page 7

Against the grain: Modern wood-engravers have been unfairly neglected, says Jim McCue, who pleads their cause............ Page 7

Marathon story: The runners' guru Paul Collins, who is almost 70, explains why he wants to change the way we move............ Page 8

Rising from the fire: After more than 50 years, the charcoal-burners are clearing coppices and encouraging a wildlife habitat..... Page 18

ARTS

Solti's finest hours: The conductor Sir Georg Solti is the subject of this month's *Times* CD Direct Choice. Richard Morrison, Arts Editor, profiles his life, from his childhood studying under Bartók to his triumphs at the helm of the Royal Opera House and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; and four of his finest recordings are offered to *Times* readers at a specially reduced price...... Weekend, page 16

Sugar plum fairies: What is a ballet company from the Urals doing in Northampton? And why come all the way from Perm to dance *The Nutcracker*?...... Weekend, page 16

Meeting of musics: The world's trendiest string quartet, the Kronos, returned to the London concert platform this week — with an additional player. They were joined by the virtuoso kora player, Foday Musa Suso, for a piece specially written by the Gambian musician......... Weekend, page 16

VISION

Stark reality: "I don't think I'm Olivier, but I think I pull it off." Ben Elton on starring in *Stark*. Page 3

Odd couples: The plot is typical Hartley: weird boy meets weird girl. Kate Muir on America's hottest new director............ Page 5

OPINION

Learn the lesson

By intervening to protect the rights of parents and children whose needs have been neglected by local authorities, central government can make the education system more accountable............ Page 17

Time and space

The Princess of Wales's unexpected announcement that she intends to reduce her duties deserves sympathy and respect............ Page 17

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The future of the monarchy depends on the success of the Princess of Wales as a parent, under exceptional public scrutiny and in exceptional circumstances......... Page 16

ALEXANDER CHANCELLOR

His meeting with President Clinton was a notable triumph for Salman Rushdie............ Page 16

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On corporate gifts to hospitals at risk............ Page 17

THE PAPERS

It is a relief that in a democratic test [India's] Bharatiya Janata Party brought the temple down on itself

— *The New York Times*

There isn't too much reality that has ever gotten in the way of an American diplomat in pursuit of a peace document ... Having achieved "peace" with the PLO, the current American logic is that it's now time to bring Assad on board ... the man who in 1982 suppressed an uprising in the city of Hama

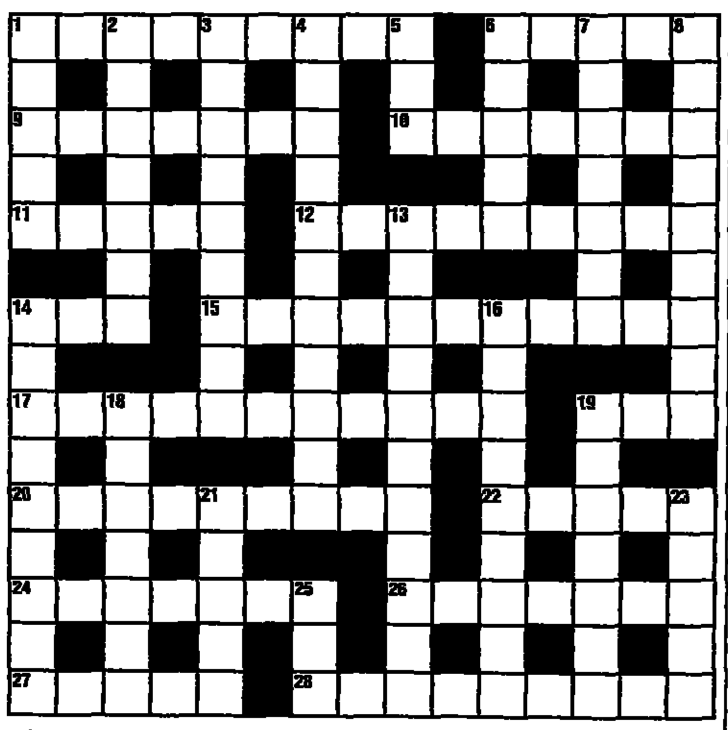
— *The Wall Street Journal*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,405

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a beautifully crafted stationery rack, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



ACROSS

1 Conductor grabs novice, originator of musical confusion (9).
6 Loopy pattern on bed is very good (5).
9 Essential requirement: wild nag (7).
10 Beastly fever? Yearn to comprehend explanation (4,3).
11 Lodgings in Kent, say, for one in suit? (5).
12 Star medic going wobbly? Show how many hours are worked! (4-5).
14 Laurel is graduate with Third in Psychology (3).
15 Jumper in rags put off possible purchaser (11).
17 Record getting amended after first in race is disgraced (11).
19 Vehicle is broken having lost tail-piece (3).
20 Sleep around and manage to beg in the street (9).
22 Unpleasant hag, wife — ugly, odd bits missing! (5).
24 Environmental science record held by English company (7).
26 It's improper pocketing silver — an immoral act (7).
27 Attractive little girl not inclined to communicate (5).
28 Where a lot may get drunk? (5-4).

DOWN

1 A disease mother's keeping quiet (5).
2 Caught on the street dividing soft drug (7).
3 With holidays coming up green somehow becomes cleaner (9).
4 Inclined to make less use of sinister member (5-6).
5 This plan upsets lady (3).
6 Source of hay fever? (5).
7 Cry about game? Don't be so gloomy! (5,2).
8 See arts given new look, including city museum items? (9).
13 Girl getting the job to fail as a secretary? (4,3,4).
14 Cover of darkness? (9).
16 Chipping a painting? (3,6).
18 Older folk making horrible snores about an hour after midnight (7).
19 Animal has dull yellow thing shining round 'ead (7).
21 Old skeleton, a man, end of century (5).
23 Lord's province in Belgium (5).
25 Sheep's heard in this wood (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,399

MOVIE COCHINEAL
A I N H A N X I
REVERSION CAPON
C I A P O L E E
OLDAGEPENSIONER
P E Y I N S
OVERDO ESPECIAL
L N R E V I
ONCEOVER STREAM
O P A F R I
DRUGONTHEMARKET
U N S T L C I L
METHS ALLATONCE
P E U C O O G S
SCRIMSHAW ROSES

Solution to Puzzle No 19,404

NAPOLEON OFFSET
U A O U U P R
DOMINATE INSURE
I P G I S G R A
STEER NULLIFIED
T R A T I O L
INTHEPICTURE
O A G E P O S S
RUBBERCHEQUE
N E O R R C S
ACROPOLIS GNASH
M D A D A E S O
EREBUS STITCHED
N E S I T E D
TANNER UNDERWAY

Winners of last Saturday's competition are: D Finkel, Highview Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex; J Hall, Cranedown, Lewes, East Sussex; H H Finlayson, Etive Cottage, Connel Ferry, Argyll; J I Hamilton, Oakdale Road, Tunbridge Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent; A C Jones, Wilberforce Road, London.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Much of England and Wales will have a wet and windy start to the day with perhaps some gales over more exposed parts. Drier and brighter weather will follow and winds will ease. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some showers, more especially in the west. After a mild start in the south, temperatures will be generally close to the early December average. Outlook: mainly fine over England and Wales, outbreaks of rain further north.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	s	Majorca	16	61	s
Akrotiri	19	66	f	Malaga	17	63	s
Alex'dria	21	70	c	Malta	17	63	s
Algiers	14	57	c	Melb'rne	22	72	c
Amst'dm	10	50	c	Mexico C*	15	59	c
Athens	14	57	c	Miami*	26	79	s
Bahrain	23	73	s	Milan	7	45	s
Bangkok	33	91	f	Montreal*	3	37	f
Barbados*	29	84	f	Moscow	-16	3	c
Barcelona	16	61	s	Munich	7	45	s
Beirut	19	66	s	Nairobi	24	75	f
Belgrade	3	37	s	Naples	15	59	c
Berlin	8	46	c	N Delhi	23	73	s
Bermuda*	23	73	c	N York*	10	50	c
Biarritz	11	52	s	Nice	15	59	s
Borde'x	11	52	c	Oslo	-1	30	sn
Brussels	10	50	c	Paris	9	48	c
Budapst	0	32	c	Peking	0	32	s
B Aires*	28	82	s	Perth	27	81	s
Cairo	22	72	f	Prague	6	43	f
Cape Tn	21	70	s	Reykjavik	-3	27	s
Chicago*	7	45	s	Rhodes	17	63	s
Ch'church	16	61	r	Rio de J	27	81	f
Cologne	10	50	c	Riyadh	27	81	s
C'phagn	6	43	d	Rome	19	66	s
Corfu	17	63	f	Salzburg	7	45	s
Dublin	11	52	c	S F'risco*	13	55	s
Dubrovnik	17	63	s	Santiago*	27	81	s
Faro	17	63	s	S Paulo*	26	79	f
Florence	16	61	s	Seoul	1	34	s
Frankfurt	7	45	c	Sing'por	29	84	f
Funchal	19	66	c	St'kholm	1	34	c
Geneva	4	39	s	Strasb'rg	8	46	c
Gibraltar	17	63	s	Sydney	19	66	f
Helsinki	-6	21	sn	Tangier	19	66	s
Hong K	27	81	s	Tel Aviv	21	70	s
Innsbrck	6	43	s	Tenerife	21	70	s
Istanbul	8	46	c	Tokyo	21	70	s
Jeddah	31	88	s	Toronto*	6	43	f
Jo'burg*	30	86	s	Tunis	14	57	c
L Palmas	21	70	f	Valencia	18	64	s
Le Touquet	10	50	f	Vanc'ver*	7	45	r
Lisbon	10	50	s	Venice	11	52	s
Locarno	7	45	f	Vienna	2	36	s
L Angels*	24	75	s	Warsaw	4	39	r
Luxembg	7	45	c	Wash'ton*	11	52	f
Luxor	29	84	s	Wel'ngton	16	61	c
Madrid	10	50	s	Zurich	7	45	f

* denotes figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.7	0.01	8	46	cloudy
Anglesey	0.3	0.01	12	54	cloudy
Aviemore	0.1	0.21	6	43	rain
Belfast	0.1	0.05	10	50	rain
Birmingham	0.6	-	13	55	cloudy
Bognor Regis	-	-	11	52	drizzle
Bournemouth	-	-	12	54	drizzle
Bristol	-	0.02	11	52	drizzle
Buxton	-	0.05	11	52	cloudy
Cardiff	-	0.01	11	52	drizzle
Clacton	0.9	0.01	10	50	cloudy
Eastbourne	0.2	0.02	12	54	cloudy
Edinburgh	1.0	0.31	9	48	shower
Eskdalemuir	1.2	0.14	8	46	shower
Exmouth	0.1	-	13	55	cloudy
Falmouth	1.7	0.01	13	55	cloudy
Folkestone	-	0.01	13	55	cloudy
Glasgow	0.1	0.24	9	48	shower
Guernsey	-	0.01	13	55	cloudy
Hastings	-	-	12	54	cloudy
Hunstanton	0.6	-	11	52	cloudy
Isle of Man	-	0.20	12	54	rain
Jersey	-	0.02	12	54	drizzle
Leeds	0.4	0.01	13	55	drizzle
Lerwick	1.4	0.32	5	41	hail
Littlehampton	-	-	12	54	cloudy
Liverpool	0.4	0.02	12	54	drizzle
London	-	-	13	55	cloudy
Lowestoft	0.5	-	13	55	cloudy
Manchester	2.6	-	13	55	bright
Margate	X	0.03	13	55	cloudy
Minehead	X	-	13	55	cloudy
Morecambe	-	0.25	10	50	rain
Newcastle	2.3	0.01	12	54	rain
Newquay	0.3	-	12	54	cloudy
Nottingham	0.8	-	13	55	cloudy
Penzance	0.9	0.01	13	55	cloudy
Plymouth	-	0.01	11	52	drizzle
Poole	0.1	-	13	55	cloudy
Saunton Snd	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Scarborough	-	0.02	12	54	rain
Scilly Isles	0.5	-	12	54	cloudy
Shanklin	-	-	11	52	drizzle
Southend	0.2	0.01	12	54	cloudy
Southsea	-	-	11	52	drizzle
Stornoway	-	0.29	6	43	shower
Swanage	0.1	-	12	54	cloudy
Teignmouth	-	-	13	55	cloudy
Tenby	-	0.03	12	54	cloudy
Tiree	-	0.19	9	48	shower
Torquay	-	-	12	54	cloudy
Weymouth	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Wick	0.1	0.11	4	39	sleet

These are Thursday's figures

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 3.54 pm to 7.48 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 7.57 am
Edinburgh 3.42 pm to 8.24 am
Manchester 3.52 pm to 8.06 am
Penzance 4.21 pm to 8.03 am

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.48 am — Sun sets: 3.54 pm
Moon rises: 9.40 pm — Moon sets: 11.08 am
Last quarter December 6

London 3.53 pm to 7.49 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 7.58 am
Edinburgh 3.41 pm to 8.26 am
Manchester 3.51 pm to 8.08 am
Penzance 4.21 pm to 8.05 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.49 am — Sun sets: 3.53 pm
Moon rises: 10.57 pm — Moon sets: 11.33 am
Last quarter tomorrow

Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989: The hours of darkness are defined in these Regulations as the period between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise.

TOURIST RATES

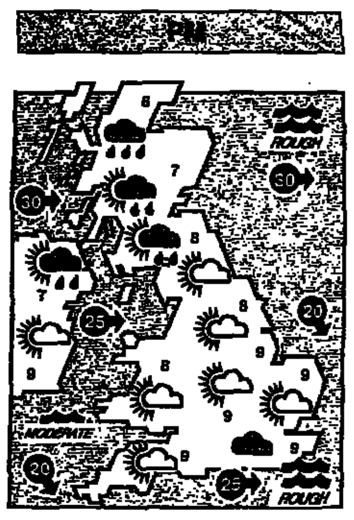
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.33	2.13
Austria Sch	18.92	17.42
Belgium Fr	56.89	52.49
Canada \$	2.082	1.922
Cyprus Cyp£	0.795	0.745
Denmark Kr	10.67	9.87
Finland Mkk	9.28	8.48
France Fr	9.23	8.53
Germany Dm	2.70	2.49
Greece Dr	384.50	359.50
Hong Kong \$	12.12	11.12
Ireland Pt	1.10	1.02
Italy Lira	2663.00	2508.00
Japan Yen	179.00	159.50
Malta	0.620	0.585
Netherlands Gld	3.010	2.780
Norway Kr	11.88	10.88
Portugal Esc	272.00	253.50
South Africa Rd	5.70	4.80
Spain Pta	217.50	203.50
Sweden Kr	13.06	12.26
Switzerland Fr	2.35	2.17
Turkey Lira	20900.0	19900.0
USA \$	1.582	1.452

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

AM

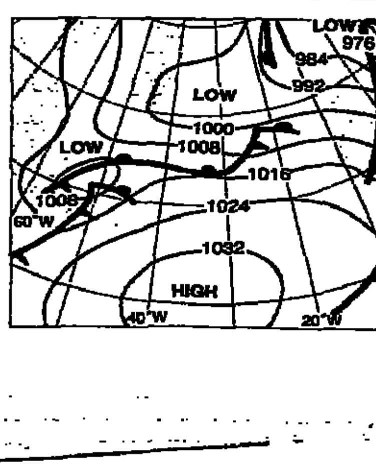


PM



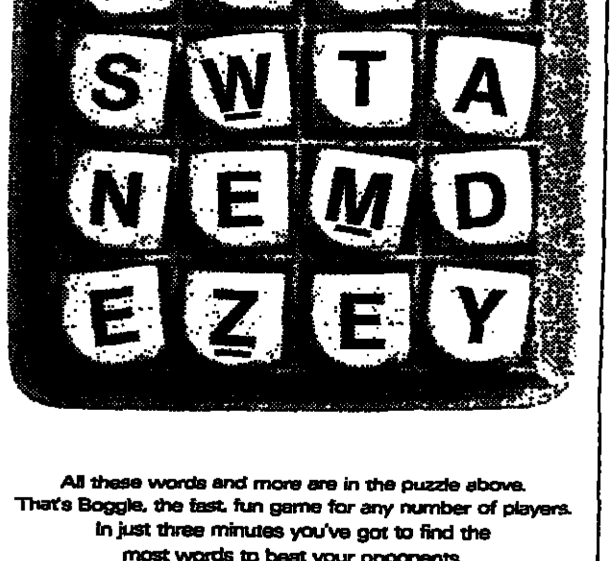
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NOON TODAY



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WHOSE FAT TOAD SNEEZED?



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PROFILE 23

Gartmore chiefs share a vision for the future



MELVYN MARCKUS 22

Our City Editor probes Ferranti's collapse



SPORT 34-40

Pass master faces his biggest test

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
Page 36

THE TIMES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 4 1993

Insurers stand firm on 'bad advice' payments

BY SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

INSURANCE companies yesterday emphasised their intention to resist any pressure to pay compensation for bad advice by independent financial advisers (IFAs).

The assertion comes as the industry braces itself for the results of a widespread investigation into the mis-selling of personal pensions to as many as 500,000 employees who opted to transfer out of their occupational plans. KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant, has been scrutinising records and is due to give its findings in the next two weeks.

The concern that people have been left worse off by the transfer of savings to private schemes because of bad advice knocked shares, with Legal & General and Prudential being hardest hit. L&G shares hit a low of 528p, before clawing back 4p to end 7p down at 532p. Prudential's shares fell 10p to 360p.

Analysts said the companies bore the brunt of investors' reaction to the news partly because their shares were the easiest to deal in. Others said it was because the companies' shares had had the strongest run when it became clear that pensions were to be untouched in the Budget.

Roman Cizdyn, at Smith New Court, the broker, said compensation could potentially add up to "big numbers for the industry, but one has to remember that there are more than 180 life companies". Mis-selling was more likely to be among the smaller companies, he said.

While insurers say they are willing to compensate individuals who were wrongly advised by their tied agents or direct sales forces, they are adamant that they will not be bounced into paying for the errors made by IFAs.

The Prudential said: "Our view is that it is the IFA that is giving the advice. They are independent and not connected to any insurance company."

Legal & General said that the industry's standards had been overhauled in recent years so the findings had little bearing on current practices.

Pension compensation, page 1



MGN seeks windfall profit on office site

BY CARL MORTISHED

■ Under plans the existing Mirror Group headquarters will be demolished and replaced by a giant glass atrium with a swimming pool in the basement

MIRROR Group Newspapers could benefit from a substantial property profit if it goes ahead with plans to redevelop its London office site, currently in the hands of receivers.

The newspaper group acquired control of its headquarters and adjacent buildings in September and intends to submit a planning application within two months for a comprehensive, 600,000 sq ft redevelopment.

MGN is believed to have an option to purchase the long leasehold and freehold interests in 33 Holborn, Orbit House, Maxwell House and neighbouring buildings from the receivers of Robert Maxwell Estates. Should development plans go ahead, MGN could benefit from a substantial windfall profit.

The redevelopment proposals have been made possible by MGN's impending move to Canary Wharf. Under the lease agreed with Canary Wharf's administrators, the newspaper group will benefit from a lengthy rent-free period on five floors in the tower, in addition to a substantial capital contribution, thought to be worth as much as £10 million. Savings gained by moving out of Holborn, combined with the incentives at Canary Wharf, make redeveloping MGN's former offices financially attractive and enable the company to acquire the site at no more than the cost of staying put.

MGN is still locked into its lease at Holborn, where it is paying between £30 and £40 a sq ft, but, by vacating the site, MGN should rid itself of the heavy operating cost of running the aging and inefficient building. In addition, the business rates liability at Holborn will be at least halved.

Under plans drawn up by Foster Associates, the firm of architects, for MGN, the existing buildings are to be demolished and replaced by three eight-storey office blocks. The present Mirror Group headquarters would be replaced by a 228,000 sq ft building with a glass atrium, facing Holborn Circus.

Peter Marano, of Gemini Commercial Investments, who negotiated the Canary Wharf deal for MGN, said the newspaper group was pleased with the Norman Foster proposals. "We hope to realise significant value out of the site," he said.

Mark Slim, a partner of Jones Lang Wootton, the firm of surveyors, said that top rents in the area were £27 to £32 a sq ft but a severe shortage of office space was expected to build up over the next few years, due to lack of new development. "A top-notch building developed in 1996 would fetch £45 per sq ft," he said.

Should MGN be successful with the planning application, it might have the options of developing the site, finding a joint venture partner or selling the project.

In September, the administrators to the Maxwell private companies sold their 55 per cent stake in MGN to institutions, raising £373 million. MGN is currently capitalised at about £660 million and reported interim pre-tax profits of £70 million. Its borrowings and finance leases at the end of June totalled some £320 million and the group then had a provision of £174 million for the deficit in the Maxwell pension schemes.

Directors at M&S net £1.3m on options

FOUR more Marks and Spencer directors have garnered large profits by exercising executive share options, then selling. They made £1.3 million between them by selling shares worth more than £2 million at near-peak prices.

The four directors are understood to have exercised their options, held under the company's senior staff option plan, in the past couple of days. Last week, John Sacher, another executive director, pocketed a profit of more than £1 million by selling almost 456,000 shares.

The latest sales involve Christopher Littmoden, Roger Aldridge, Peter Salsbury and Keith Oates. Mr Littmoden, the finance director, exercised options to buy 192,000 shares at 206p each and sold them at 447.5p, netting £463,680.

Mr Aldridge, the director responsible for UK and international estates and store development, acquired 199,016 shares. Of these, 17,385 options were exercised at 232.33p, 61,740 at 176p, 95,620 at 175p and 24,271 at 206p. The shares were sold at 447.5p, reaping a profit of about £525,000.

Mr Salsbury acquired 75,889 shares at 206p. He and his wife sold them at 447.5p, raising a profit of about £183,000. Mr Oates, managing director for international operations, sold 50,000 shares at 450p having acquired them at 176p, making a profit of about £137,000.

An M&S spokesman said the share sales were a personal matter for the directors involved. "We are not in close season and the details of the option scheme are clearly listed in our annual report," he said.

Pat Beard, the company's shareholder services manager, said: "Our share price is the best it has ever been and these directors have taken advantage of that." She added: "Who can blame them?"

M&S shares yesterday ended 5p higher at 455p, with 4.3 million traded.

YOU can get anything at Harrods, so the saying goes, and Mohamed Al Fayed, chairman of Harrods, proved it yesterday — in style and with pipers when he drove a Harrods horse-drawn delivery vehicle. But this was no ordinary delivery to any old Harrods customer. Mr Al Fayed was fulfilling a promise made to Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's joint chief executive, in October when they declared an end to the eight-year campaign between Lonrho and the Fayeds over ownership of Harrods. On October 22, when Mr Rowland shook hands with Mr Al Fayed, he asked his former adversary for home delivery of the stuffed mako shark named "Tiny", and its baby "Bock", which had long hung in Harrods' food hall. "I'll bring it myself," the Harrods chairman said. The shark is to be auctioned for the benefit of the charity Childline, to which both men have each pledged £50,000.

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

PENSION PLEA



Angry campaigners for retirement at 60 head for Downing Street as the government plumps for equalisation at 65
Page 25

FROZEN OUT

A stockbroker freezes £77,000 after suspecting fraud. The innocent client receives no compensation
Page 28

WATER WOE



Water meters are expensive to buy, install, read, maintain and replace. Why are we bothering?
Letters, page 31

BEST MOVE?

As BES enters its last few weeks, investors await the birth of EIS on Tuesday. Is either worth the gamble?
Page 26

Swindling City investment broker jailed for four years

BY OUR CITY STAFF

A CITY investment broker was jailed for four years today for swindling trusting friends and clients out of huge sums in a desperate attempt to save his "tottering" business.

Kenneth Renton's "manifest dishonesty" involved tales of big profits in fictitious schemes to get investors to part with a total of £645,000.

The father of two, who was disqualified from being a director for ten years, even told one customer his backers included stars such as James Bond actor Sean Connery.

Passing sentence at Inner London Crown Court, Judge Fingret told Scottish born Renton that the difficulties caused by the 1987 stock market crash and the recession were not excuses to embark on a "grossly dishonest escapade". His misuse of clients' money was "persistent" and "wholly disgraceful".

Renton, 58, of Wentworth, Virginia Water, Surrey, who pleaded guilty to 14 charges of theft and four offences of obtaining property by deception, showed no reaction as he was led away.

He was chairman and managing director of Wentworth Asset Management, which ran into financial difficulties in 1991.

Stephen Waller, prosecuting, said the Bank of Scotland became worried at Renton's overdraft and, unable to meet his obligations, he used his non-executive directorship with a Leeds hotel chain to persuade people to invest in a bogus share issue.

Victims included a fellow director, a banker, a retired newspaper executive and a family friend who was a Canadian stockbroker. When a former accountant became suspicious, Renton attempted suicide, then fled to Scotland.

Within days he returned to London and gave himself up, telling police: "It was a question of stupid Scottish pride. I always had to win. I didn't want to be seen to lose."

Roy Amlot QC, defending, said Renton was "now full of remorse", penniless and ruined. He would be leaving behind his very sick 35-year-old wife to fend for herself.

Charles Saatchi in board resignation

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

CHARLES Saatchi, creative genius behind the rise of the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency, is stepping out of the limelight by resigning from the board, at 50, to become its honorary president.

The move, suggested by Mr Saatchi himself, has also meant the renegotiation of his salary. Previously he and his brother Maurice, 47, who remains chairman, were on £625,000 five-year rolling contracts but drew only half their salaries.

Charles Saatchi now will see his salary reduced to £312,500 on a five-year fixed-term contract that is more in tune with current feeling on corporate governance. His brother's terms of employment are not being altered.

The move will allow Mr Saatchi to concentrate more on his creative role, Saatchi stresses, and there is no question of this input lessening.

He has been responsible for many of the agency's most successful campaigns, most memorably those for Silk Cut cigarettes, British Airways and the well-known *ménage à trois* comprising a dog, a cat and a mouse that advertised the Solid Fuel Advisory Council.

The shift off the holding company board absolves Mr Saatchi from attending board and shareholder meetings, which he is known to regard as an ordeal — he has never attended an annual meeting.

The news left Saatchi's shares unmoved at 180p.

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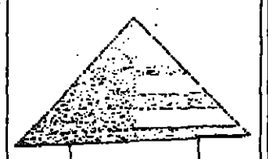
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STOCK MARKET



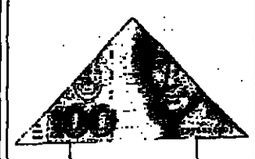
FT-SE 100 3234.2 +10.3



DOW JONES 3703.23 +1.12

Midday trading figure

THE POUND



Dm 2.5641 +0.0154



US $ 1.4912 +0.0120

GOLD

$375.85 per oz

BRENT CRUDE

$14.00 per barrel (Jan)

6pm

LONDON CLOSING PRICES

MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 24, SHARE PRICES PAGE 33

The 'hands off' history of the Ferranti affair

So the day of reckoning for Ferranti has finally arrived. Eugene Anderson, the tough-talking Texan called in to rescue Ferranti in the New Year of 1990, warned shareholders, ever since GEC agreed to launch its £11.4 million takeover bid in late October, that the only alternative to the token offer of 1p per share was receivership. Wednesday brought official word that GEC, in the wake of its due diligence findings, had chosen to abandon its offer: a decision which prompted Ferranti's directors, mindful of their duty to "trade lawfully", to invite the NatWest to appoint receivers. Enter accountants Arthur Andersen.

GEC's offer was conditional not only on capturing 90 per cent acceptances — which looked marginally odds against — but also on the outcome of due diligence investigations into Ferranti's "assets, cash flow projections, commitments and liabilities". After close on a month's work, GEC's accountants produced their report on Monday. Their findings were discussed at GEC's board meeting on Tuesday and, late that evening, Lord Weinstock telephoned Anderson to inform him that the bid was off.

Tears, understandably, are now being shed and flak is flying, albeit not necessarily in the appropriate directions. Ferranti's employees are furious with rebel shareholder John Katz, head of the Ferranti Shareholders' Support Association, witness a letter in *The Times* yesterday, the flavour of which is discernible from the following extract:

☐ "Mr Katz incorrectly encouraged shareholders to believe that there could be an alternative to both the GEC offer and receivership, although it is now, we believe, apparent that this could never have been a practical proposition.

☐ "GEC clearly have their own reasons for withdrawing the offer. Equally clearly, the misguided actions of Mr Katz have, at the very least, not assisted the shareholders, employees or creditors of Ferranti."

Anderson, it can safely be assumed, is not best pleased with GEC's decision to pull the plug and Ferranti's advisers darkly point out that GEC "now know all there is to know about Ferranti". Such knowledge will presumably benefit GEC during its anticipated "cherry picking" negotiations with John Talbot, of Arthur Andersen, although Talbot would appear a shrewd bean counter: note his £370 million sale, last September, of a near-55 per cent stake in MGN at a price of 170p, the current quote being 164p.

GEC's advisers, in turn, argue that insinuations that the company launched a £160 million takeover bid (taking into account Ferranti's liabilities) merely to conduct a due diligence exercise are laughable and hint — equally darkly — that Ferranti's finances are significantly worse than foreseen. Talbot, along with his colleague Murdoch McKillop, is understood to have spent the last few days "bedding down" Ferranti's key subsidiaries: the priority being to normalise trading. Talks have already taken place with the Ministry of Defence and other key customers. Union representatives are reported to be relieved at Arthur Andersen's initial strategy: the clear intention being to dispose eventually of companies as ongoing concerns.



MELVYN MARCKUS

This week, Talbot can be expected to focus on those parties which have expressed interest in picking over Ferranti's bones.

Katz, for his part, still believes that Ferranti will "rise from the ashes" and, in a statement yesterday, declared that "discussions are in progress with shareholders who have the experience and ability to prepare and implement a rescue plan". What Katz should bear in mind is the fact that precious few of Ferranti's ball-bearings are going to roll anywhere without a nod-through from the MoD.

So the flak flies, much of it, in my opinion, wildly aimed. It was the late Basil de Ferranti who occupied the chair when Ferranti embarked on its fatal £420 million takeover of International Signal & Control in 1987 but, if my memory serves me correctly, it was Sir Derek Alun-Jones, wearing the mantles of chief executive and managing director, who forced the deal through.

Tales were told as to how the Ferranti family — Sebastian de Ferranti (now a director of GEC) in particular — was opposed to a full-scale merger with International Signal, although Basil eventually backed Alun-Jones who subsequently emerged as chairman and managing director.

It was Peter Grant, a former director of merchant bankers Lazards, who advised the Ferranti family against a merger with International Signal, the creation of James Guerin, the secretive Bible-thumping, contract-juggling arms dealer now serving a 15-year sentence for financial fraud and illegal arms sales.

Why, I remember asking at the time, were Lazards wary of ISC's credentials, but not Barings, Ferranti's advisers, then and now? Why, I also remember asking, did Alun-Jones not heed Lazards' advice to Basil de Ferranti?

The rest is history. Guerin's phantom contracts — along with a few other extraordinaries — blew a $1 billion hole in Ferranti's balance sheet: the beginning of the end of a company which, in the wake of the ISC acquisition, was capitalised at £1 billion, employed a workforce of 26,000 and enjoyed an order book of £1.5 billion.

No laurels for Robin Broadley, a director of Barings and a non-executive director of Ferranti since 1981. No laurels for Ferranti's former accountants Peat Marwick. No laurels for Robert Fleming who originally brought ISC to the London market in 1983.

What Anderson inherited at Ferranti was a company which was the victim of "hands off" management. If blame for the Ferranti fiasco must be apportioned, let it be apportioned with history in mind.

Big firms clash with Delors on economy

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADING employers yesterday urged European leaders to back an action plan based on raising competitiveness to beat the recession.

In talks with Jacques Delors, European Commission president, ahead of next week's European Union summit, some of Europe's most significant companies pressed the commission to focus primarily on competitiveness, to promote growth and cut unemployment.

The European Round Table group of 40 industrial leaders, from companies such as Fiat, Unilever, Volvo, Hoechst, Siemens, Pirelli, Nestlé, Olivetti and Philips, said Europe needed a "radical shift" in its approach to industrial development and economic growth.

A policy paper approved by the round table leaders, and presented yesterday to M Delors, is at odds with the approach likely to be taken by the commission in its white paper on competitiveness, jobs and growth. This will be examined at the summit by leaders of EU member states, including John Major.

British companies in the round table, which include ICI, BP, Pilkington and BAT, are uneasy about some aspects of the round table proposals, but they signed up for them, largely because of their stress on competitiveness as the key to growth and reducing unemployment.

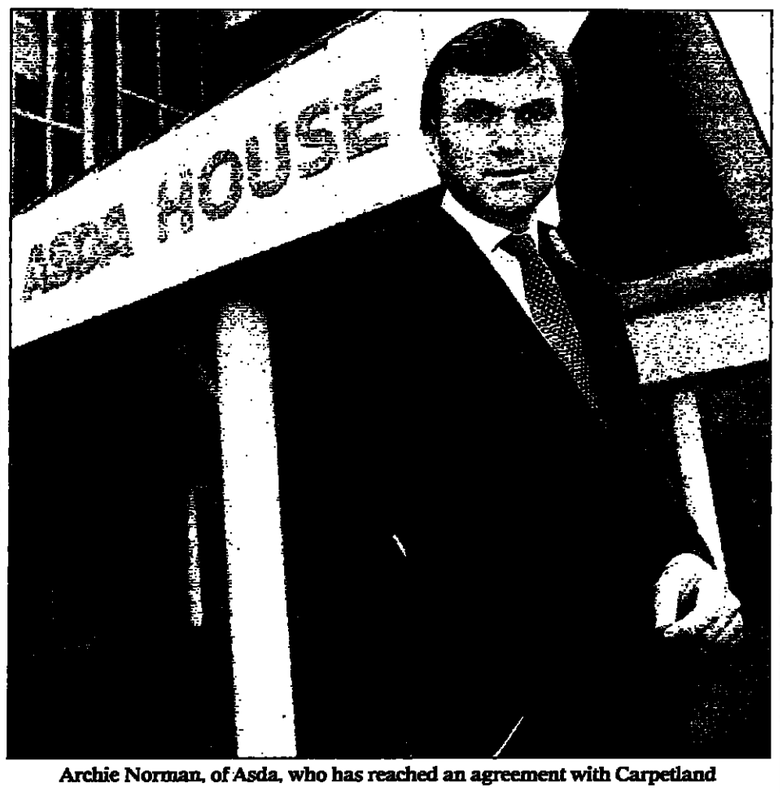
They hope that, since the latest draft of M Delors' white paper was sharply criticised by finance ministers, their own emphasis will be reflected in the final version.

The round table companies say "labour costs are the single major cause of falling competitiveness and rising unemployment". They maintain that "work is there — but not at these prices". They urge the commission to propose action to reduce high social costs and enable small companies to employ people at lower prices.

Though such an approach, coupled with a radical review of welfare policies and an attack on regulation, is in line with that taken by the UK government, M Delors has explicitly rejected it. Commission officials are likely to judge the round table proposals as out of line with what they insist is dominant economic thinking in Europe.

The big companies suggest that sustained growth of 3.5 per cent a year will be needed to make an impact on unemployment, now about 17 million across the EU. Such a growth rate, they say, will require additional investment by companies worth 4 per cent of current European output.

Sir Michael Angus, president of the Confederation of British Industry, praised the policy paper's emphasis on deregulation and flexible labour markets. "Jacques Delors really ought to listen to what Europe's most senior business leaders are saying," he said. "If he doesn't, he's heading for trouble."



Archie Norman, of Asda, who has reached an agreement with Carpetland

Asda sells Allied carpets

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

ASDA, the supermarket group headed by Archie Norman, gave a warning that £123 million would be wiped off its bottom line in the current year after the sale of its Allied carpets and Maples furniture businesses.

Carpetland, the out-of-town retailer that was the subject of a management buy-out from Lowndes Queensway two-and-a-half years ago, has agreed to buy Allied.

Asda has taken a 40 per cent stake in the enlarged group at a cost of £8 million and subscribed for £10 million of 12.5 per cent redeemable loan stock.

The group is believed to have found a buyer for Maples and a deal is expected to be announced before the interim results on December 17. The £123 million hit comprises a £70 million write-off on the book value of the businesses and £53 million of goodwill.

The decision to sell Allied, which has made operating losses of £18 million in the past two years, was taken after a review of the business by a new management team.

It concluded that the "substantial further investment" required to return the chain to the black was not justified. More than £100 million has been invested in Allied since the late 1980s.

The group believes the combination of Carpetland and Allied, which together will form Britain's biggest carpet retailer, will have a greater chance of restoring an adequate level of profitability while allowing Asda to concentrate on its core supermarket business.

By taking a stake in Carpetland, which may be floated or sold at a later date, Asda is hoping to repeat its success with MFI. The sale of its 25 per cent shareholding in the furniture retailer last year netted a £69 million profit.

Philip Dorgan, retail analyst at Goldman Sachs, said: "It is a costly exercise, but it gets rid of a management diversion and Allied's losses."

Tempus, page 23

Fiberite write-off may cost ICI £100m

BY NEIL BENNETT

PROFITS at Imperial Chemical Industries may be hit by a £100 million write-off next year, after the group revealed yesterday that it is negotiating to sell Fiberite, its loss-making composite materials business.

ICI said it is talking to two potential buyers but still expects to suffer a heavy loss on the disposal. Negotiations are at an early stage but ICI was forced to confirm its plans after reports of the deal leaked in the City.

The loss will be covered by the £100 million, which includes a £77 million goodwill write-off.

Fiberite makes carbon fibre and other advanced materials which are used in the defence and aerospace industries because of their strength and low weight.

ICI bought Fiberite, in Arizona, as part of the Beatrice chemical businesses in 1984 in an attempt to build a high-tech advanced materials group. But the industry has been dogged by intense competition and low prices; Fiberite lost £10 million last year on a £94 million turnover.

The sale of Fiberite will complete ICI's withdrawal from the advanced materials field. Tempus, page 23

Housing starts rise 5%

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HOUSING starts in Britain rose 5 per cent, seasonally adjusted, in the three months to October, from the previous three months, according to the latest figures from the Department of the Environment.

In October alone, it estimates that 16,100 homes were started, seasonally adjusted, up from 15,800 in September.

Total seasonally adjusted housing starts in the first ten months of the year came to 153,900, 17 per cent higher than the 131,000 recorded in the comparable period of 1992.

Sterling continued to gain against the mark, which was undermined by interest rate cuts by France and Spain.

The pound's trade weighted index closed at 82.1, compared with Thursday's close at 81.7. Sterling added nearly 1½ pfennigs against the mark to close at DM2.5641. The dollar closed nearly two cents lower at $1.4912 against the pound.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Equatorial Bank loses its licence to operate

HOPES for a revival of the collapsed Asian banking sector have dimmed after administrators of Equatorial Bank handed back its banking licence. The move comes after eight months of efforts by Gareth Hughes and Maggie Mills, joint administrators from accountants Ernst & Young. Last month they paid a 25p in the pound first dividend to depositors, owed a total of £40 million; another payment is likely early next year.

Equatorial was one of three of the four Asian banks forced to close between October 1992 and April this year. The Bank of England tried with administrators to rescue them. Roxburghe Bank's administrators handed back its licence in August. The only one of the three potentially with a future is Mount Banking Corporation which closed in October. Mount was solvent, but was shut because of concerns about its operational conduct. Its 2,000 depositors, with £145 million of deposits, received 30p in the pound 10 days ago.

Eurotunnel dispute over

EUROTUNNEL, the Channel tunnel operator, the contractors and suppliers of the tourist shuttle wagons, yesterday settled their dispute over building the wagons. A consortium headed by Bombardier, the Montreal wagon supplier, will receive Fr700 million in phased cash payments and up to 25 million Eurotunnel shares, subject to consent from Eurotunnel shareholders at the close of the Channel tunnel operator's forthcoming rights issue. Eurotunnel shares last night rose 8p to 468p.

Restructuring at Ossory

OSSORY Estates, the troubled property group, disclosed details of a proposed financial restructuring. Plans, which need shareholder approval, include a standstill arrangement with the banks; a £5.5 million placing and open offer to provide working capital; a debt-for-equity swap with banks and creditors; the issuing of new ordinary shares; and the appointment of four new directors. Ossory, which is changing its name to Orb Estates, estimates it will report pre-tax losses of up to £41 million for the year to June 30.

Raglan acquires shops

RAGLAN Property Trust has paid about £12 million for 16 freehold high street shops in the South East and the Midlands. The shops are let to retailing chains including Burton, Our Price, Superdrug and Iceland, and are in locations ranging from Worthing, West Sussex, and Banbury, Oxfordshire, to Southwest London. Michael Ingall, Raglan's property director, said the acquisition would fulfil the twin goals of generating capital growth and a secure income stream.

EC payments plan

THE European Commission is to put forward proposals to make cross-border payments quicker and cheaper in the EC, Raniero Vanni d'Archirafi, the financial services commissioner, said. Banks were not providing customers with relevant information. Transferring 100 ecus (£75) from one EC country to another costs an average of 24 ecus, according to a commission survey of more than 280 banks. The commissioner aims to remove the distinction between domestic payments and those between EC countries.

Southend in £31m deal

SOUTHEND Property Holdings announced yesterday the £31 million acquisition of three properties in Birmingham, Ealing, West London, and Godalming, Surrey. The three commercial buildings comprise 240,000 sq ft of office space and 10,000 sq ft of leisure space. The vendor is Ellerman Investments. The group also disclosed that in the six months to end-September it boosted taxable profits by 40 per cent to £1.78 million, and announced an interim dividend of 0.8p a share (1.52p). Earnings per share rose from 0.67p to 1.23p.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"The latest budget has completed the job of sorting out the public finances says the Treasury. But it could all go wrong in the spring when the tax increases begin to bite. The chancellor has stamped on the budget deficit but has he also stamped on economic recovery?"

David Smith analyses Kenneth Clarke's first budget tomorrow in The Sunday Times

Ousted Volvo chief sells his shares

BY COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

PEHR Gyllenhammar, ousted as chairman of Volvo in a boardroom revolt that aborted the planned merger with Renault, joined profit-takers and sold his family holdings, worth more than Skr4.5 million (£360,000), in his old company.

The collapse of the plan to wed the Swedish car and truckmaker with the state-owned French vehicle maker, after sustained pressure from angry shareholders, prompted heavy selling in Volvo shares, knocking 17 kronor off the B share to 436 kronor, and pushed the whole Swedish market lower.

Mr Gyllenhammar, who resigned on Thursday along with four directors, led Volvo since 1971 and was chief architect of the merger plan to form the world's sixth largest carmaker. He accused opponents of the tie-up of turning their back on Europe and on the industrial advantage the deal would have brought.

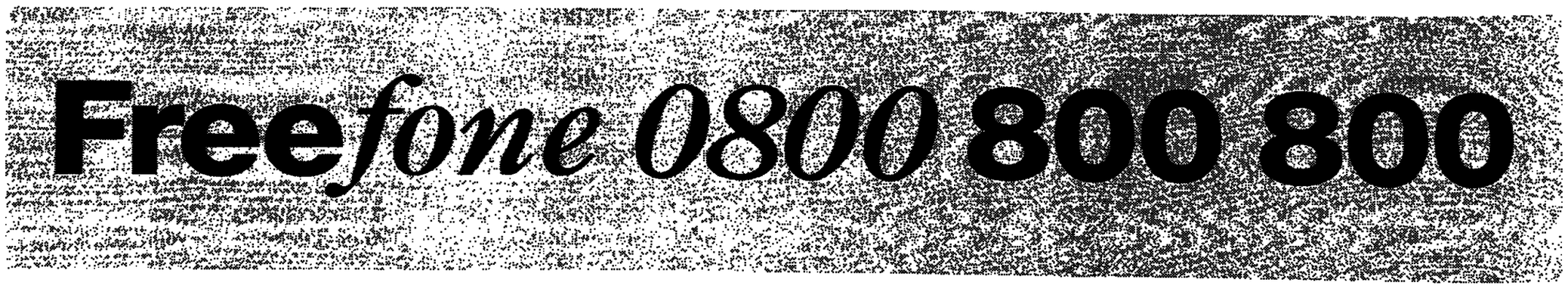
In a statement to the Stockholm bourse yesterday, he said he and his wife Christina had sold all their 10,000 shares and convertible warrants.

Important shareholders in Volvo, whose campaign against the merger triggered the boardroom coup, made clear the first priority is for a new board to be installed, but indicated that the new board will be free to decide strategy.

A statement from the office of Edouard Balladur, the French prime minister, said his government, whose privatisation timetable for Renault, and planned golden share were the main targets of Swedish opponents of the tie-up, believed a merger was still a good solution.

Louis Schweitzer, chairman of Renault, said it might seek other co-operation partners for its truck and bus operations.

☐ Volkswagen, Europe's leading carmaker, is unlikely to settle out of court in its dispute with Opel, the German subsidiary of America's General Motors, over its rapid hiring of seven Opel executives earlier this year, according to Jürgen Kicker, the lawyer acting for VW. Opel has accused VW of poaching executives.



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We go further, to bring you closer

GARTMORE: **Paul Myners and David Watts**

Sharing a vision for securing the future

partners in power

Sara McConnell meets the men who have built up the fund manager from minor player to leading role



David Watts, left, and Paul Myners, of Gartmore, which now manages £16 billion of funds, three-quarters of which are United Kingdom pension funds

When Gartmore, the fund management company, was owned by British & Commonwealth, two pictures hung in the boardroom. Both depicted sinking ships. This was not encouraging for clients, even at the time, said Paul Myners, then Gartmore's chief executive and now executive chairman. In retrospect, it was chillingly apposite for those who remember British & Commonwealth's collapse in 1990.

Three years later, more than just the pictures — now Scottish and Cornish scenes — have changed. Gartmore has risen from obscurity as a minor player in an overcrowded field and now commands a strong position, managing £16 billion of funds, three-quarters of which are UK pension funds.

Last month, Gartmore started trading in its own right as a quoted company. Banque Indosuez, which bought Gartmore from British & Commonwealth for £132 million, floated off 25 per cent of its holding. At a price of 168 pence per share, this valued the company at £338.6 million. The shares now stand at 186p. But directors at Gartmore appear unwilling to take credit individually for the building up of such a "cash cow".

They appear equally reluctant to take financial advantage by giving themselves generous share options in the floated company. They will have shares and share options in Gartmore, but these will be bought with equity they have built up in Banque Indosuez. Likewise, the company will not have any extra capital. What it will have is directors who have a similar vision of the company's character and strengths. So similar, in fact, that it is hard to believe they have not practised their responses to predictable questions beforehand.

When Paul Myners and David Watts, chairman of Gartmore Pension Fund Managers and one of the chief architects of Gartmore's meteoric rise, were asked why they had approached Banque Indosuez to suggest it float off part of Gartmore, both said, separately and unprompted, that the principal attraction was "cultural".

Mr Myners defines this, using phrases such as "commitment to excellence, putting the client first and launching products with integrity". Mr Watts sees the flotation as securing the future. "We want an environment in which we can maintain the important things that we have here, cultural things. The flotation means we can run things absolutely independently, and make sure our culture is not interfered with". It will come as a disappointment to some that the chairman of a newly quoted company run by such an involved and perfectionist management describes the company as "strangely unambitious". This does not mean it has no plans. It does. It wants to develop its fixed income side and grow its international client base. But, Mr Myners said: "None of us want to stray outside the area we feel we have a competence in. We think the challenge of being in this business is already high enough, and there is a lot of potential in our existing core business, so we're unlikely to be doing anything different."

> **'Managers emphasise teamwork. Even in the boardroom, no one will be allowed to take a pre-eminent position'**

Gartmore's managers like to emphasise teamwork and co-operation. Even in the boardroom, no-one will be allowed to take a pre-eminent position. Instead of a chairman and a chief executive, there will be a committee of three people. Two of these will be Mr Myners and Mr Watts, with Andrew Brown, the group's finance director, the third.

Although Mr Myners is nominally the boss, he insists it will not be like that. He said he had refused requests to do press interviews in the run-up to the flotation because he felt it was wrong for too much emphasis to be placed on his own role, at the expense of that of his colleagues, particularly David Watts. The two have worked together since 1985, when Mr Myners gave up trying to lure Mr Watts and his team from Gartmore to N M Rothschild and joined Gartmore himself instead.

Separation of powers and duties is not Mr Myners' style. Neither is the traditional role of the chairman as strategist while everyone else gets down to the detail. He likes to be involved in everything. "We don't comply with traditional governance in some ways. Frequently, David has the strategic vision. Frequently, David is the person who focuses on the larger issues and I look after detail. I think of us as interchangeable. We could do each others' jobs."

Hundreds of scribbled lists, in a Filofax, on notepads, the backs of envelopes and even on the back of his Coutts chequebook keep Mr Myners up to date on detail. He laughs at himself for keeping them, but clearly takes them seriously. "Obviously, you have to get the big things right, but also the small things. I worry that we answer the telephone sufficiently promptly. I worry about the quality of our notepaper. I worry that our written material is produced to a high quality."

He rejects suggestions that such worrying can be stressful. In fact, he is relaxed. To make sure this comes across, the head of corporate communications calls the next day to say how much Mr Myners enjoys getting away from it all in his native Cornwall. But he is undoubtedly busy. He is also the company's public face, active in the fund management industry as chairman-designate of the Association of Investment Trust Companies, a member of the executive committee of the Institutional Fund Managers' Association, and a member of the takeover panel and the Lloyd's Market Board. He also holds directorships including PowerGen and the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation .

Does David Watts feel overshadowed by this high-profile public energy? Apparently not, despite his admitted competitive nature. "I always like to win at everything. Paul is competitive, but not as competitive as I am." Mr Myners, he says, "is very much more an external face to Gartmore. He's comfortable with the press and I wouldn't call myself a shrinking violet, but I'm very happy for him to do that. If you're always the person quoted in the press, people like to personalise things. If I was to see 'Paul Myners is Gartmore', well I know he doesn't think that, he knows that's not true, and I think if you talk to the professionals in the business, it's recognised that we've both helped build something".

Mr Myners "tends to communicate a lot in writing". This is not Mr Watts's approach. He prefers to have a two-way telephone conversation, or to see other people's reactions. "I'm better at handling the investment management side and motivating the people." This is not to say, Mr Watts adds hastily, that Mr Myners could not do this himself, as he has managed funds in his own right. "Paul likes handling client relationships, I like client relationships, he likes marketing, I like marketing. The question is, Paul can only handle a small number of client relationships because of his other commitments."

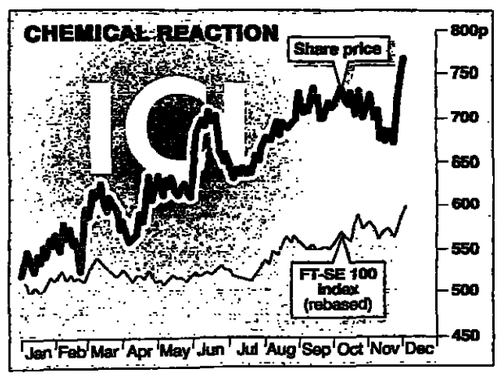
He goes on: "We run the business with a small management committee, and so on all the key issues, I'm involved. There aren't things happening that I'm not aware of."

Sometimes, in his enthusiasm for being involved with everything, Mr Myners takes on too much, Mr Watts says.

Mr Watts has no doubt that he could do Mr Myners' job, but he does not want it. "It makes for a more settling relationship, because I'm not trying to trip him up. But I would be pretty particular about who did have it."

TEMPUS

Parting is such sweet sorrow as disposals pave way for ICI



THE write-offs are piling up at ICI as Ronnie Hampel continues his promised overhaul. Less than three weeks after the group announced a £30 million exceptional charge for the liquidation of a little-known Argentinian subsidiary, ICI is preparing to take another £100 million hit to sell its American composite materials business.

The loss on the disposal of Fiberite exposes one of ICI's most muddle-headed expansions in the eighties, masterminded by Sir John Harvey-Jones, the troubleshooter himself. With the acquisition of Beatrice chemicals, ICI paid a high entry fee into the advanced materials industry, which was intended to wean the group away from the cyclicality of the bulk chemicals markets. But the business has failed to deliver the intended growth or margins.

Shareholders must be rather galled to see more than a fifth of next year's likely profit disappear, particularly since ICI took a £949 million reorganisation provision in 1992. But the City prefers to give the group the benefit of the doubt and concentrate on its underlying earnings.

Besides, ICI's business is beginning to look more robust, in contradiction to the difficulties at BOC and Courtaulds. There have been recent price rises at Tioxide, in acrylics and in PVC, although the group must wait until the New Year to see if they stick. If so, the group should generate additional trading profits to offset the write-offs.

These write-offs themselves can only continue, although hopefully none will be quite as large as the loss from Fiberite. ICI's petrochemicals business needs further reorganisation and Mr Hampel has told the City that the group is not wedded to its 50 per cent stake in European Vinyls Corporation, the PVC manufacturer. This is an increasingly likely disposal candidate, if the group can reach an agreement with Enichem, its joint venture partner. But such a large sale requires a sustained recovery in prices to flush out buyers.

ICI's shares were a major beneficiary of the Budget euphoria, hitting a post-demerger high of 776p. They now trade on 22.5 times next year's forecast underlying earnings, dear however highly one rates Mr Hampel's vision. This is a suitable time to take some profits.

Reed Elsevier

CONSIDERING the £19 million hit that Reed Elsevier's profits will take this year from the fall in its pension surplus, one can understand why companies felt so relieved that Chancellor Clarke did not tap the pensions industry again in his search for additional taxes. Norman Lamont's cut in the tax credits on dividends from 25 per cent to 20 per cent may have attracted little comment at the time, but it has sliced £70 million off Reed's £250 million pension surplus.

Reed joins others such as Guinness and BT who have discovered that their pension funds are not as wealthy as they once were. But Reed has one of the strongest funded pensions in the country, with only 5,800 contributors and 36,000 pensioners and deferred pensioners. If its profits can be damaged by the fall in the surplus, this suggests hundreds of companies will feel similar pain.

The good news is that Reed is confident it can make up the £19 million fall from its trading. A 3½-month contribution from Official Airline Guides should produce £9 million, so the slight improvement in trading the group mentions must be worth about £10 million. Advertising volumes are picking up again in regional newspapers and consumer magazines, and this is the icing on the outstanding margins the group already earns from its professional and scientific journals. Although this year's ultimate profit out-turn looks unchanged, the group's reduced reliance on rather illusory pension profits is good news for its shareholders.

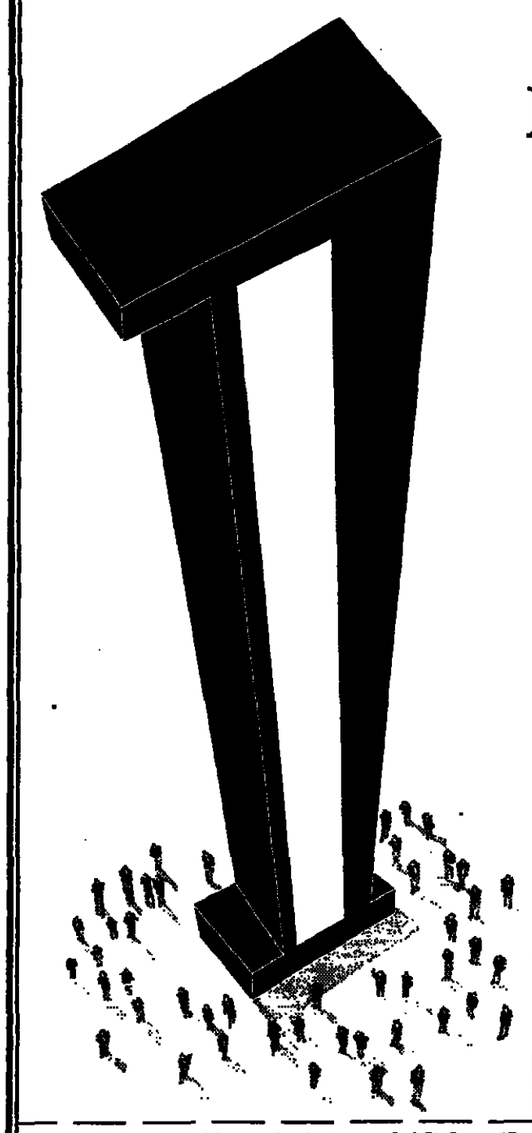
Asda

ASDA would be more than lucky if it could repeat its MFI trick by taking a 40 per cent stake in the Carpetland management buyout. MFI's float yielded the supermarket group a £72 million windfall profit but the Allied carpets business has been a cash flow drain on Asda and an irritating distraction for the management. The immediate worry for Archie Norman, Asda's chief executive, is not the future value of an unquoted share stake but the fortunes of the Asda stores in a business where margins are sliding.

Asda's new management has brought the group back to financial health by dramaticaly reducing its borrowings by almost £1 billion over three years, but the key to the future is the current investment in Asda's new format which is currently being rolled out at a cost of some £2 million per store. Asda set the trend with its low-price policy but the sector majors have now reduced their prices to match it and other discounters. Without an unexpected truce in the food retailing sector, Asda looks set for a turbulent ride and the £70 million write-off of the book value of Allied and Maples may turn out to be a hiccough in comparison.

Betterware

DESPITE all the company's protestations to the contrary, the market is convinced that all is not well at Betterware, the doorstep retailing company. In any other company, the arrival of a new finance director would have been greeted with pleasure, but Betterware shares slid another 10p to 148p, little more than half their high of 278p for the year. If everything Betterware says is true, the shares are very cheap. But it is difficult to bet against a market which is sending out such unequivocal signals.



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Newton Fund Managers Limited is a member of IMRO, LAUTRO and AUTIF. *Source: Micropal. Figures to 1 December 1993, offer to bid, net income reinvested.

Vodafone connects with investors

VODAFONE, the cellular telephone operator, rang all the right numbers with investors as the price rose 12p to 557p.

The group celebrated gaining its millionth subscriber this week, and has been enjoying the attentions of various securities houses. Yesterday, it was the turn of NatWest Securities, which is telling clients the shares are a buy.

November was a record month for subscriptions, and this run is expected to continue throughout the Christmas build-up. County expects the good news to be reflected in the share price.

Vodafone has also been benefiting from the flotation of Pactel's cellular telephone interests in America. The issue was priced at $23 a share — at the top end of expectations — and makes Vodafone's rating appear cheap.

The rest of the equity market displayed an unsettled appearance, with prices fluctuating in narrow limits throughout much of the session. Prices recovered after a

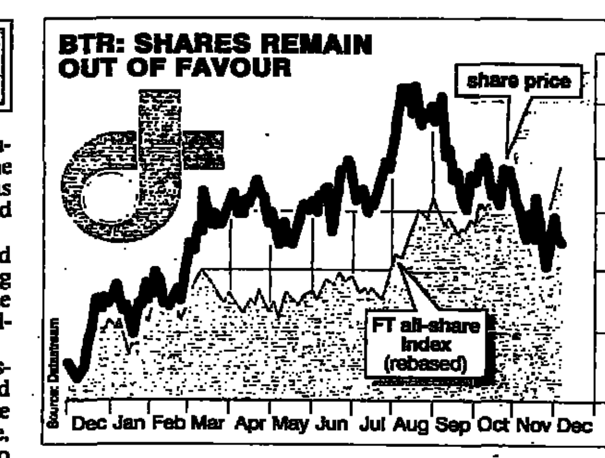
STOCK MARKET

hesitant start, helped by futures-related buying. But the gains were wiped out later as the hard-pressed bears gained the upper hand.

The FT-SE 100 index ended up 10.3 points at a new closing high of 3,234.2, a rise on the week of 122.8. A total of 749 million shares changed hands.

BTR, the acquisitive industrial conglomerate, remained out of favour, with the price falling 5p to 346p. Cazenove, its own broker, is reputed to have downgraded its recommendation for the shares from a buy to a hold after trimming its profit forecast.

James Capel has also been reducing its numbers for BTR. It is still looking for £1.2 billion for the current year, but has cut its estimate for 1994 by £45 million to £1.38 billion. It blames the recession in Europe and pressure on margins among component sup-



plies. **RTZ** was another nervous market, falling 20½p to 722½p on suggestions that Hoare Govett was urging clients to take profits and had downgraded profits on the back of a weak copper price. Hoare would not comment.

Mirror Group, publisher of the *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror*, slipped 1p to 164p. The group is doing the rounds in the Square Mile, meeting both brokers and fund managers in an attempt to "bump up its profile". By the close of business, a total of 3.5 million shares had been traded.

Rank Organisation breached the £9 level with a rise of 25p to 909p, helped by a renewed burst of institutional support. Henderson Crosthwaite was believed to have again led the buying. Once again, there is talk that the group is close to selling its half share in Xerox Corporation.

British Aerospace climbed 8p to 409p after a visit by fund managers to Toulouse to see production of the European Airbus. They obviously liked what they saw.

British Airways lost an early lead to close all square at 430p after the announcement of a drop in passenger traffic during November.

The passenger load factor was down 0.2 per cent at 64.3 per cent compared with the previous year. The group blamed the setback on winter schedules and the introduction of former Dan Air routes at the beginning of November.

Overnight American buying lifted **Medeva** 8½p to 135p and put the squeeze on market-makers in London. There is talk of some positive news on the way. A total of 1.3 million shares changed hands.

Intercare, which is quoted on the USM, consolidated Thursday's impressive gains, closing all square yesterday at 135p. The group has expanded its interests recently with the introducion of medical vending machines dispensing pills, plasters and bandages in workplaces and medical centres.

UBS, the stockbroker, is forecasting pre-tax profits of £4.3 million for the current year and earnings growth of 15 per cent per annum.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts made headway in volatile trading, bolstered by revived talk of an imminent cut in interest rates. On the futures market, the March series of the **long gilt** jumped more than £½ to £117¼ as 65,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, dealers reported a flattening out of the yield curve as demand was directed at the five to ten-year range, with **Treasury 9½ per cent 1999** jumping £9/32 to £114 13/16. At the longer end, **Treasury 9 per cent 2012** was £1/8 dearer at £123 1/16.

MICHAEL CLARK

WALL STREET

New York — Wall Street shares continued to tread water in slightly positive territory at midday as the market ran out of steam after a week's worth of positive economic data. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 1.12 to 3,703.23. Advancing issues led declining shares ten to eight. US Treasuries were mixed and off their session lows, with the long bond down 1/32 to yield 6.28 per cent. Hildegard Zagorski, an analyst at Prudential Securities, said: "The market has celebrated all this good news in advance and is now looking around to see what else there is to celebrate. It is asking what's next."

☐ **Tokyo** — The Nikkei average closed at 17,459.35, up 0.60. (*Reuter*)

	Dec 3 midday	Dec 2 close
AMP Inc	58	58
AMR Corp	66	67
Abbott Labs	29	29
Aetna Life	61	61
Ahmanson (HF)	18	18
Air Prod & Chem	44	45
Albertson's	24	24
Alcan Alumnm	20	20
Alco Standard	50	49
Allied Signal	73	73
Alum Co of Am	69	70
Amax Gold Inc	6	6
Amerada Hess	45	45
Amer Brands	34	34
Amer Cyanamid	52	52
Amer El Power	36	36
Amer Express	32	32
Amer Genl Corp	28	28
Amer Home Pr	63	63
Amer Intl	88	87
Amer Stores	41	40
Amer T & T	54	54
Ameritech	77	77
Amoco	52	53
Anheuser-Busch	50	50
Apple Computer	31	31
Archer Daniels	22	22
Arkla	7	7
Armco	5	5
Armstrng Wrld	46	45
Asarco	21	20
Ashland Oil	33	33
Atl Richfield	103	103
Auto Data Pro	55	55
Avery Dennison	29	29
Avon Products	49	49
Baker Hughes	19	19
Baltim Gas & El	24	25
Banc One	37	37
BankAmerica	44	44
Bank of NY	55	55
Bankers Tr NY	76	77
Barnett Banks	41	41
Bausch & Lomb	53	52
Baxter Intl	23	23
Becton Dickson	34	35
Bell Atlantic	61	61
BellSouth	57	57
Black & Decker	20	20
Block (H&R)	39	40
Boeing	38	37
Boise Cascade	23	23
Borden Inc	17	16
Bristol Myrs Sq	59	59
Browning Ferris	25	25
Burlington Nthn	56	57
CBS	307	301
CNA Financial	76	76
CPC Intl	46	47
CSX	83	83
Campbell Soup	42	42
Can Pacific	16	16
Cptl Cities ABC	625	630
Cptl Holdings	38	38
Carolina Pwr	28	28
Caterpillar	84	86
Central & SW	29	29
Champion Intl	30	30
Chase Manhat	33	34
Chemical Bk	39	39
Chevron Corp	86	86
Chrysler	53	53
Chubb Corp	80	79
Cigna Corp	63	64
Citicorp	35	35
Clorox	52	52
Coastal Corp	26	26
Coca Cola	42	42
Colgate-Palmolive	59	59
Columbia Gas	24	24
Commonw Ed	27	28
Compaq Comp	73	73
Comp Ass Intl	41	41
Conagra	26	26
Cons Edison	31	30
Cons Nat Gas	45	45
Cons Rail	61	61
Cooper Inds	50	50
Corning Inc	27	26
Crown Cork	39	39
Dana Corp	54	55
Dayton Hudson	69	68
Deere	70	71
Delta Air Lines	59	59
Deluxe Corp	34	34
Detroit Edison	31	32
Digital Equip	36	36
Dillard Dept St	39	39
Disney (Walt)	41	41
Dominion Res	44	44
Donnelley (RR)	29	29
Dover Corp	59	59
Dow Chemical	58	58
Dow Jones	37	37
Dresser	19	19
Duke Power	41	41
Dun & Brdstreet	63	63
Du Pont	47	47
Eastman Kodak	62	62
Eaton Corp	49	49

	Dec 3 midday	Dec 2 close
Emerson Elec	55	55
Engelhard Corp	24	24
Enron Corp	30	30
Enserch Corp	36	36
Ethyl Corp	18	18
Exxon	62	62
FMC Corp	45	45
FPL Group	37	37
Federal Express	71	71
Fed Nat Mtge	76	76
First Chicago	41	41
First Interstate	59	58
First Union Rlty	10	9
Fleet Finl Grp	31	31
Fluor Corp	41	42
Ford Motor	62	62
GTE Corp	36	36
Gannett	56	56
Gap Inc Del	41	40
Gen Dynamics	93	91
Gen Electric	100	100
Gen Mills	61	60
Gen Motors	54	53
Gen Reinsurance	110	109
Gen Signal	34	35
Genuine Parts	37	37
Georgia Pac	73	72
Gillette	62	62
Glaxo ADR	20	20
Goodrich (BF)	42	43
Goodyear Tire	46	45
Grace (WR)	39	39
Grt Atl Pac Tea	27	27
Great Wstn Fin	18	18
Halliburton	29	29
Harcourt General	38	39
Heinz (HJ)	37	37
Hercules	110	108
Hershey Foods	50	50
Hewlett Packard	76	75
Hilton Hotels	48	47
Home Depot	42	42
Homestake Mng	19	19
Honeywell	32	32
Household Intl	34	34
Houston Inds	45	45
Humana	16	17
ITT Corp	87	88
Illinois Tool	37	37
INCO	24	24
Ingersoll Rand	38	38
Inland Steel	32	32
Intel Corp	63	63
IBM	53	53
Intl Flav & Fr	110	110
Intl Paper	67	66
James River Vs	18	18
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	44	44
K Mart	22	23
Kellogg	60	60
Kerr-McGee	46	47
Kimberly-Clark	53	53
Knight-Ridder	59	58
Lilly (Eli)	57	57
Limited Inc	17	18
LIN Brdcstng	112	112
Lincoln Nat	44	44
Litton	65	65
Liz Claiborne	22	21
Lockheed Corp	70	70
Louisiana Pac	41	40
MCI Commun	24	24
Marriott Int	25	25
Marsh & McLnn	80	79
Masco Corp	35	34
May Dept St	41	41
Maytag Corp	16	16
McCaw Cellular	51	51
McDonalds	59	58
McDonnell D	114	113
McGraw Hill	70	69
Mead Corp	42	42
Medtronic	81	80
Mellon Bk	57	57
Melville Corp	40	41
Merck Inc	33	33
Merrill Lynch	47	46
Minnesota Mine	108	108
Mobil Corp	76	76
Monsanto	70	69
Morgan (JP)	71	72
Motorola Inc	96	95
Natl Medical	12	11
Natl Semi	15	15
Natl Service Ind	23	24
Navistar Int	22	22
NBD Bancorp	28	29
NY Times A	27	25
Newmont Mng	52	52
Niag Mohawk	20	20
Nike B	48	48
NL Industries	5	5
Nordstrom	34	34
Norfolk Sthn	67	68
Nthn State Pwr	41	41
Norwest Corp	23	23
Nynex Corp	41	41
Occidental Pet	18	18
Ohio Edison	22	22
Oracle Systems	34	34

	Dec 3 midday	Dec 2 close
Oryx Energy Co	17	17
Owens Corning	46	46
PNC Financial	29	29
PPG Industries	71	71
Paccar Inc	68	67
Pacificorp	19	18
Pac Enterprises	24	24
Pac Gas & Elec	34	34
Pac Telesis	57	57
Pall Corp	18	19
Panhandle East	22	21
Paramnt Comm	79	79
Parker Hannifin	35	35
Penney (JC)	56	54
Pennzoil	55	58
Pepsico	39	40
Pfizer	66	66
Phelps Dodge	45	45
Philadel Elec	27	28
Philip Morris	55	55
Phillips Pet	28	28
Pitney Bowes	41	41
Polaroid	36	35
PriceCostco	20	20
Primerica	41	40
Procter & Gmbl	57	56
Pub Serv E & G	31	31
Quaker Oats	74	74
Ralston Purina	37	37
Raychem Corp	36	37
Raytheon	63	62
Reebok Intl	30	30
Reynolds Metals	45	46
Roadway Srvcs	66	67
Rockwell Intl	34	34
Rohm & Haas	53	53
Royal Dutch	103	102
Rubbermaid	33	32
Safeco Corp	58	58
St Paul's Cos	90	89
Salomon Inc	44	45
Santa Fe Pac	20	20
Sara Lee Corp	26	26
Scecorp	19	20
Schering Plough	66	66
Schlumberger	57	56
Scott Paper	37	37
Seagram	27	27
Sears Roebuck	53	54
Shell Trans	62	61
Sherwin Wllms	33	32
Skyline Corp	17	17
Snap-On-Tools	38	38
Southern Co	42	42
Sthwestern Bell	43	42
Sprint Corp	33	32
Stanley Works	40	40
Sun Company	30	31
Suntrust	44	44
Supervalu	32	33
Syntex Corp	16	17
Sysco Corp	29	28
TRW Inc	65	65
Tandem Comp	10	10
Tandy Corp	47	46
Telecom Corp	3	3
Teledyne	25	25
Temple Inland	50	49
Tenneco	49	48
Texaco	63	63
Texas Instr	64	64
Texas Utilities	42	42
Textron	59	59
Time Warner	44	44
Times-Mirror	31	31
Timken	32	32
Torchmark	44	44
Toys R Us	40	40
Transamerica	57	56
Travelers Corp	32	32
Tribune	57	57
Tyco Labs	48	48
UAL Corp	152	155
UST Inc	26	27
USX Marathon	17	17
Unilever NV	113	112
Union Camp	47	47
Union Carbide	20	20
Union Pacific	61	61
Unisys Corp	11	11
USAIR Group	13	13
USF&G Corp	13	12
US Life	37	37
US West	46	46
United Tech	61	62
Unocal Corp	26	27
Upjohn	30	30
VF Corp	43	43
WMX Tech	25	25
Wal-Mart Stores	27	27
Warner-Lambert	65	65
Wells Fargo	117	118
Westinghouse El	14	14
Weyerhaeuser	44	43
Whirlpool	62	62
Whitman	16	16
Winn Dixie	54	54
Woolworth	23	23
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	44	43
Xerox	82	82

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

THE POUND

US $ ... 1.4912 (+0.0120)
German mark ... 2.5641 (+0.0154)
Exchange index ... 82.1 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 ... 3234.2 (+10.3)
Dow Jones ... 3703.23 (+1.12)*
Nikkei Avg ... 17459.35 (+0.60)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base ... 5½%
3-month Interbank ... 5 5/16-5¼%
US Federal Funds ... 2 15/16%*
3-month Treas Bills ... 3.12-3.10%*
Long Bond ... 6.27%*

CURRENCIES

New York:		London:	
£:$	1.4905*	£:$	1.4893
$:DM	1.7212*	£:DM	2.5624
$:SWfr	1.4895*	£:SWfr	2.2169
$:Ffr	5.9145*	£:Ffr	8.8050
$:Yen	108.42*	£:Yen	161.44
£:SDR	1.0703	£:ECU	1.3303

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 372.75 ... PM 376.75
Close ... 375.60-376.10
New York:
Comex ... 375.45-375.95*

OIL

Brent Crude ... $14.00 per bbl (Jan)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI..141.8 Oct (1.4%) Jan 1987=100

* Denotes midday trading price

Oil price slumps to five-year low

WORLD oil prices dropped to a five-year low yesterday after further speculation that the United Nations might soon ease its Gulf War embargo on the petroleum exports of Iraq.

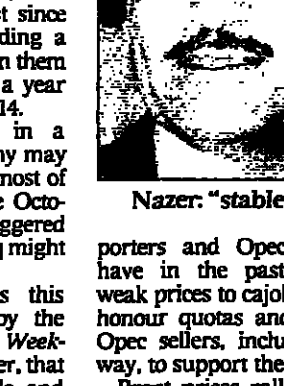
London January futures for the world benchmark Brent blend of crude oil fell to $13.64 per barrel, their lowest since November 1988, extending a long slide that has taken them down from about $20 a year ago. It later rallied to $14.

Weak oil demand in a sluggish global economy may be behind the fall but most of the abrupt drops since October 1992 have been triggered by suggestions that Iraq might sell oil again soon.

Weighing on prices this week was a report by the *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*, an industry newsletter, that Iraq was being flexible and might sell oil again as early as the April-June quarter of 1994.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has tried to set quotas to balance supply with demand rather than make sharp cuts to tighten the market.

The Saudis, the biggest exporters and Opec linchpin, have in the past tolerated weak prices to cajole others to honour quotas and get non-Opec sellers, including Norway, to support the market.



Nazer: "stable price"

Brent prices rallied briefly on Friday to $14.07 on news that Hisham Nazer, the Saudi oil minister, said earlier this week that his country had always sought a stable oil price. But as this was not issued on official media, it might not have been meant as a signal to the market.

Pensions surplus hit at Reed

BY SARAH BAGNALL

REED Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, has suffered a drop in the surplus of its pension fund because of April's cut in the rate of advance corporation tax.

The company said the pension fund credit would be only £9 million in 1993, compared with £28 million last time, but the change would not reduce profits from the level forecast at the interim stage.

In August, the company reported a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £281 million, and analysts upgraded their full-year forecasts to an average of £540 million.

Nigel Stapleton, chief financial officer at Reed Elsevier, said that profits would not be hit because of the pre-tax contribution from the Official Airline Guides acquisition and a slight improvement in trading conditions.

The fall in the pension credit arises because the change in ACT has adversely hit the dividend income of the company's UK fund.

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Emrg Econ	92½	+½	Hiscox Select Ins Fd (100)	108	+3
Abtrust Emrg Econ Wts	52	...	Hozelock (250)	253	+3
Abtrust LLoyds Insce (100)	94	...	Independent Insce (225)	282	...
Abtrust Lloyds Wts	39	...	Johnson Fry Utilities (100)	103½	...
Allders (170)	193	+1	Johnson Fry Zero Pf (100)	104	+½
Amicable Smlr Ent (100)	101	...	Lilliput (135)	126	...
Angerstein (100)	94	...	Litho Supplies (190)	205	+2
Angerstein Wts	40	...	London Insrnce Mkt (100)	107	+2
Azlan (230)	261	+4	Masthead Insce (100)	103	...
BTR Wts 1998	47	...	Morgan Gren Eqty C (100)	101	...
Badgerline (115)	114	...	New London Capital (100)	96	...
Biotrace Intl (130)	145	−1	On Demand Info (78)	119	+2
CLM Insce (100)	100	...	Roxboro (230)	247	+2
Canadian Pizza (200)	193	...	Royal Doulton	206	−1
Charles Sidney (110)	107	...	Ruberoid (150)	165	−2
Cleveland Trust (100)	112	...	Smaller Cos Inv Tst C (135)	141	...
Coal Invs	18	...	Syndicate Capital (100)	97	...
DFS Furniture (260)	283	...	Syndicate Capital Wts	33	...
Dellan Lloyds Inv Tst (100)	98	...	Thrgmrtn Prf Inc (100)	102	...
Emerald Energy (1)	2	...	Towry Law (190)	190	...
Fenchurch (180)	178	...	Ugland Intl	102	...
Finsbury Undrwrtng Inv	109	...	Wigmore Property Inv (100)	95	...
For & Col Emerg Mkts Wts	60	...	Wigmore Property Wts	40	...
For & Col Smaller (100)	100	...	**RIGHTS ISSUES**		
Gartmore (168)	186	...	Rhino n/p (44)	16	−1
Govett High Inc (100)	103	...	Siebe n/p (485)	64	...
Greyfriars Inv Wrts	11	...	Ugland n/p	1½	...
HCG Lloyds Inv Tst (100)	102	...	Wyevale Grdn Ctrs n/p (152)	19	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		FALLS:	
Abbey National	452p (+15p)	Betterware	148p (-10p)
Scot & Newcastle	538p (+18p)	Delta	485p (-12p)
Mitel	421p (+68p)	Pearson	586p (-11p)
Courts Furnishers	915p (+27p)		

Closing Prices Page 33

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 071 538 8800				
Series Mngd Fd	435.50	460.90	+8.30	...
Series Equity	553.20	585.50	+13.30	...
Series Prop Fd	421.80	446.40	+0.30	...
Series Fixed Int	330.90	350.20	+1.40	...
Series Money Fd	243.50	257.70	+0.30	...
Series Oseas Fd	339.10	358.90	+7.80	...
AETNA LIFE INSURANCE 2-12 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD 0800 010575				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	17.47	18.39	+0.01	...
Bear	19.65	20.69	+0.37	...
Owl	19.79	20.84	+0.51	...
Bull	17.81	18.75	+0.36	...
Stag	18.67	19.66	+0.34	...
Gilt Edged	19.31	19.31	-0.21	...
Deposit	15.38	15.38	+0.02	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	23.38	24.62	+0.04	...
Bear	26.53	27.93	+0.58	...
Owl	26.67	28.08	+0.80	...
Bull	22.73	23.93	+0.55	...
Stag	23.14	24.36	+0.51	...
Gilt Edged	23.83	23.83	-0.27	...
Deposit	19.58	19.58	+0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	579.21	579.22	+14.33	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	343.57	361.66	+11.45	...
N Amer Equity	293.69	309.15	+3.99	...
Far East Equity	413.30	435.06	+1.63	...
Fixed	302.63	318.56	+3.47	...
Cash Deposit	198.19	208.63	+0.18	...
Property	145.04	152.68	+2.22	...
Special Opp	349.86	368.28	+6.43	...
Managed	304.65	320.69	+7.25	...
Index-Linked Fd	196.97	207.34	+2.31	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 0202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	259.90	273.60	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	474.60	499.60	+0.30	...
Equity Fd Inc	170.50	179.50	+7.30	...
-do- Acc	221.30	233.00	+9.60	...
Selective Fd	481.10	506.50	+8.90	...
Money Fd	364.60	383.80	+0.20	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	369.70	389.20	+0.20	...
Equity Ser 4	212.50	223.70	+7.10	...
Man Ser 4	654.10	688.60	+15.10	...
Conv Ser 4	318.80	335.60	...	...
Money Ser 4	318.50	335.30	+0.10	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	354.00	372.70	+4.00	...
American Ser 4	504.90	531.50	+7.50	...
High Inc Ser 4	652.00	686.40	+22.50	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	216.30	227.70	+2.50	...
Japan Ser 4	334.10	351.70	+6.70	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 0707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1537.2	1619.0	+50.90	...
European Fd Acc	344.90	362.40	+5.40	...
Fixed Int Acc	550.10	579.00	+9.00	...
Gtd Money Acc	323.70	340.60	+0.20	...
Intl Managed Acc	575.20	605.40	+9.60	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	330.80	348.20	+2.20	...
Japan Fund	276.00	290.50	+5.20	...
N American Acc	318.90	335.60	-0.40	...
Prop Fd Acc	395.00	415.80	+0.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1027.1	1081.1	+23.40	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 0793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	360.40	379.40	+0.20	...
Equity Acc	1375.8	1448.3	+32.70	...
Property Acc	507.20	533.90	+14.70	...
Far East Acc	311.30	327.70	-1.00	...
Managed Capital	535.70	563.90	+13.10	...
-do- Acc	1066.6	1122.8	+26.50	...
Overseas Acc	917.40	965.70	+23.70	...
Gilt Edged Acc	490.40	516.30	+10.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	740.70	779.70	-1.30	...
Amer Man Acc	316.20	332.90	-0.40	...
Amer Prop Acc	115.70	121.80	+0.20	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 0494 463463				
Reserve Ser 5	145.80	153.40	+1.40	...
Balced Ser 5	686.40	722.50	+18.80	...
Opportunity Ser 5	156.50	164.70	+4.50	...
Distribution Ser 5	106.30	111.80	+2.00	...
UK Equities Ser 5	950.90	1000.9	+34.90	...
Higher Inc Ser 5	1021.4	1075.1	+34.00	...
North Amer Ser 5	442.90	466.20	-3.60	...
Far East Ser 5	533.50	561.50	+9.60	...
Europe Ser 5	343.80	361.80	+5.50	...
Intnl Ser 5	546.90	575.60	+15.80	...
Property Ser 5	479.60	504.80	+5.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 5	421.80	443.90	+3.70	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S5	185.80	195.50	+1.60	...
Gteed Dep Ser 5	287.30	302.40	...	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 081 534 5544				
Equity Acc	821.30	864.60	+27.50	...
-do- Initial	561.90	591.50	+18.80	...
Gilt Edged Acc	398.00	419.00	+4.90	...
-do- Initial	274.70	289.20	+3.40	...
International Acc	386.30	406.70	+6.00	...
-do- Initial	264.90	278.90	+4.10	...
Managed Acc	508.40	535.20	+12.60	...
-do- Initial	349.80	368.30	+8.60	...
Money Acc	281.90	296.80	+0.20	...
Property Acc	257.00	270.60	+0.30	...
-do- Initial	175.40	184.70	+0.10	...
American Acc	281.90	296.80	+3.50	...
Australia Acc	203.50	214.30	+2.00	...
Financial Acc	327.00	344.30	+16.90	...
500 Accum	423.50	445.80	+8.70	...
Japan Genl Acc	327.10	344.40	+5.60	...
Income Acc	510.50	537.40	+13.30	...
Leisure Acc	219.60	230.20	+13.30	...
Special Sits Acc	227.20	239.20	+8.60	...
Univ Tech Acc	147.30	155.10	+3.00	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 0634 834000				
The Managed Fd	787.62	787.62	+19.35	...
Income Fund	748.24	787.63	+19.13	...
Extra Income	681.50	717.37	+17.19	...
Worldwide Gth	496.42	522.55	+15.88	...
Balanced Fund	648.38	682.51	+20.45	...
Smllr Cos Recov	630.14	663.31	+11.65	...
N Amer & Genrl	376.88	396.72	+4.52	...
Pacific Basin	457.44	481.52	+5.78	...
German Growth	228.69	240.73	+2.56	...
Japan Growth	165.93	174.67	+1.47	...
The UK Gth Fd	203.10	213.79	+6.49	...
Contl Euro Gth	121.31	127.70	+2.93	...
Property Fund	366.03	385.30	+1.47	...
Fixed Interest	323.33	340.35	+4.62	...
Cash Fund	274.67	289.13	+0.17	...
Managed Inv	478.34	503.52	+12.36	...
Nth Amer Recov	247.45	260.48	+2.72	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gnth	475.84	500.89	+12.23	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 0475 848000				
Measured Perf	158.30	167.50	+2.40	...
Performance Plus	155.00	164.00	+1.70	...
With Profit Perf	165.10	174.70	+0.20	...
UK Opportunity	175.40	185.60	+7.30	...
Euro Opportunity	202.50	214.20	+1.40	...
North Amer Opp	158.60	167.80	+1.70	...
Far East Opp	195.60	206.90	+5.30	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	139.10	146.40	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	163.90	173.40	-0.10	...
Fixed Int	191.60	202.70	-1.00	...
Cash	151.80	160.60	+0.10	...
Overseas	178.50	188.80	+1.90	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 0707 51122				
Equity Growth	1238.60	...	...	...
Managed	318.30	335.10	+5.40	...
Property	212.50	223.70	+0.70	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	252.80	266.10	+5.40	...
Equity	349.50	368.00	+6.70	...
Cash	211.60	222.70	+0.10	...
CLife Euro Mgd	349.30	367.70	+7.20	...
CLife Intl Fd	349.30	367.80	+4.10	...
For Cannon see Lincoln National				
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 0908 606101				
Property Fund	179.30	188.80	+0.60	...
Managed Fund	603.10	634.90	+15.00	...
Equity Fund	345.70	363.90	+12.40	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0272 290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	277.50	292.20	+5.60	...
Ruby	155.30	163.50	+2.40	...
Emerald	146.30	154.00	+1.50	...
Equity	320.10	337.00	+9.80	...
Property	193.60	203.80	-0.10	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	217.00	228.50	+3.40	...
Indexed Secs	172.80	181.90	+2.00	...
Cash	181.40	191.00	+0.20	...
Nth American	207.20	218.20	+2.20	...
Far East	306.70	322.90	+3.70	...
International	218.30	229.80	+3.40	...
Special Sits	299.40	315.20	+8.10	...
Intl Income	286.00	301.10	+6.50	...
American Inc	184.70	194.50	-0.50	...
European	294.70	299.70	+1.00	...
Japanese	128.10	134.90	+3.40	...
SE Asia	352.40	371.00	+8.30	...
With Profits Rec	153.30	161.40	-0.30	...
-do- Spec	153.30	161.40	-0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	308.60	324.90	+8.30	...
Equity	368.90	388.40	+15.70	...
Property	180.90	190.50	+0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	267.70	281.80	+4.90	...
Index Linked	184.30	194.00	+2.20	...
Cash	239.40	252.10	+0.30	...
Nth American	259.90	273.60	+3.30	...
Far East Acc	295.50	311.10	+7.50	...
International Acc	283.00	297.90	+4.70	...
Special Sits	438.20	461.30	+9.80	...
European Flex	397.40	418.40	+3.00	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 0634 890 000				
(Units)Key	218.65	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker	1303.60			
-do- Cash	198.35	208.79	+0.07	...
-do- Equity	516.03	543.19	+7.08	...
-do- Fxd Int	374.83	394.56	+2.05	...
-do- Managed	374.87	394.60	+4.40	...
-do- Property	336.38	354.08	+0.46	...
(Pens) Cash Cap	206.83	217.72	+0.01	...
-do- Cash Inv	292.29	307.68	+0.23	...
-do- Equity Cap	1442.2	1518.1	+71.03	...
-do- Equity Inv	2038.1	2145.4	+101.7	...
-do- Fixed Cap	414.42	436.24	+6.73	...
-do- Fixed Inv	585.65	616.48	+9.91	...
-do- Index Cap	216.37	227.77	+3.31	...
-do- Index Inv	305.78	321.88	+4.89	...
Mngd Cap	574.71	604.97	+22.79	...
Mngd Inv	812.18	854.94	+32.76	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3. 071 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)	1678.63	...	-21.53	...
Var Ann (5)	390.05	...	-1.97	...
Prime: Managed	398.20	419.20	+8.60	...
Prime: UK Equity	478.40	503.60	+13.40	...
Prime: Int Equity	302.90	318.90	+3.90	...
Prime: Property	204.10	214.70	+0.50	...
Prime Fxd Int	250.80	264.00	+2.60	...
Prime Index-Lnk	180.90	190.30	+3.20	...
Prime: Cash	199.10	209.60	+0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 0438 744840				
Managed Fund	1088.2	1145.4	-5.20	...
Equity Fund	1552.4	1634.1	[illegible]	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 0483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	581.60	612.20	+14.70	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	378.10	397.90	+5.90	...
Life Equity Acc	803.30	845.50	+23.60	...
Life Money Acc	293.10	308.50	+1.20	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	789.80	831.30	+23.50	...
Life Intl Acc	486.20	511.70	+6.40	...
Life High Inc Acc	785.10	826.40	+21.70	...
Life Property Acc	244.60	257.40	-12.80	...
Crown Brit Inv A	1138.3	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	694.10	730.60	+21.20	...
Life Equity Acc	234.00	246.30	...	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 0242 221311				
Secure Fund	169.80	178.80	+0.10	...
Blue Chip Fund	237.00	249.50	+5.80	...
-do- Series 2	152.90	161.00	+3.70	...
Adventurous Fd	204.90	215.70	+1.90	...
-do- Series 2	154.70	162.90	+1.40	...
Performance Fd	242.00	254.80	+4.30	...
-do- Series 2	157.60	165.90	+2.90	...
UK Pref Fxd Int	148.50	156.40	+1.60	...
UK Equity Fund	154.80	163.00	+5.70	...
Property Fund	106.60	112.30	-0.30	...
Envrnmntl Opps	152.00	160.00	+4.80	...
Euro Fund	166.10	174.90	+3.80	...
North Amer Fd	193.80	204.10	+2.20	...
Oriental Ops	216.60	228.00	+2.70	...
Japanese Fund	118.00	124.30	+2.30	...
Bd & West Life	117.90	124.20	+0.10	...
Bd & West Pen	130.00	136.90	+0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 071 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	264.90	274.50	+10.50	3.32
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 0722 413366				
Managed (Mixd)	299.50	315.30	+8.50	...
UK Equity	401.20	422.40	+15.20	...
Stewardship	339.50	357.40	+8.70	...
Overseas Equity	266.90	281.00	+4.30	...
North American	147.50	155.30	+0.80	...
Pacific Basin	155.20	163.40	+3.30	...
European	191.10	201.20	+1.50	...
Property	189.00	199.00	+0.10	...
Fixed Interest	241.50	254.30	+4.40	...
Index Linked	171.50	180.60	+2.40	...
Cash	193.90	204.20	+0.10	...
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 071 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	338.10	355.90	+10.30	...
GT Plan Wwide	502.50	529.00	+9.50	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier Street, York YO1 1HR. 0904 628982				
Managed	201.80	212.30	+4.60	...
Unitised Profit	126.70	133.30	+0.20	...
UK Equity	274.30	288.70	+9.30	...
Fixed Int	205.80	216.30	+4.50	...
Index-Linked	172.90	181.90	+2.60	...
Cash Deposit	169.50	178.30	+0.10	...
Property	168.30	177.10	+1.40	...
International	181.10	190.60	+4.60	...
American	156.00	164.10	-0.50	...
Japan	230.50	242.50	+0.80	...
Japan Smllr Cos	237.60	250.00	+2.20	...
European	172.30	181.30	+1.30	...
Pacific Fund	291.90	296.60	+6.00	...
Conv Life	136.70	143.70	+2.80	...
GENERAL PORTFOLIO LIFE Gen Portfolio House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 0279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	702.60	702.60	+13.50	...
-do- Inv A	702.90	739.50	+14.10	...
UK Equity	398.80	419.90	+12.30	...
Gilt Plus	216.90	228.40	+2.30	...
Managed	308.20	324.50	+6.30	...
Inter Man	274.10	288.60	+4.50	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 071 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	699.40	736.20	+17.40	...
Managed Initial	471.90	496.70	+15.80	...
-do- Acc	657.90	692.50	+22.40	...
Equity Initial	685.00	721.10	+30.50	...
-do- Acc	955.00	1005.3	+42.90	...
Fixed Int Initial	467.60	492.20	+10.80	...
-do- Acc	651.90	686.20	+15.10	...
Intl Initial	455.90	479.90	+4.10	...
-do- Acc	635.80	669.20	+6.00	...
Nth Amer Initial	182.10	192.70	+0.40	...
-do- Acc	232.30	244.50	+0.60	...
Pacific Initial	244.50	257.40	+1.60	...
-do- Acc	307.30	323.50	+2.10	...
Property Initial	161.20	169.70	+4.90	...
-do- Acc	224.70	236.50	+7.20	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	168.80	177.70	+2.40	...
-do- Acc	214.20	225.50	+3.20	...
Deposit Initial	194.90	205.20	+0.10	...
-do- Acc	271.80	286.10	+0.30	...
Euro Initial	95.20	100.20	+1.00	...
-do- Acc	111.60	117.50	+1.20	...
HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE Kingsgate, 1 King Edward Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4HG. 0277 280939				
Managed	162.90	171.40	+4.60	...
-do- Pens	198.40	208.80	+7.10	...
UK Equity	161.60	170.10	+5.80	...
-do- Pens	182.40	191.90	+8.20	...
International	147.70	155.40	+2.20	...
-do- Pens	158.00	166.30	+2.80	...
Deposit	136.30	143.40	+0.10	...
-do- Pens	159.50	167.80	+0.10	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 071 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	367.60	391.10	+10.20	...
North America	350.80	373.20	+8.50	...
Far East Fund	634.50	675.00	+14.20	...
Global Managed	466.90	496.80	+12.30	...
Deposit Fund	222.60	234.40	+0.10	...
Prime Residential	126.00	132.70	...	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European Fund	248.00	263.90	+2.20	...
Fixed Interest	70.20	74.70	-0.30	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 081 686 4355				
Security Fund	501.40	530.60	+13.60	...
British Fund	514.90	544.90	+17.10	...
International	498.00	527.00	+8.30	...
Dollar Fund	363.70	384.90	+2.30	...
Capital Fund	457.50	484.20	+12.70	...
Income Fund	696.30	736.90	+22.10	...
Property Series A	412.20	436.20	+2.20	5.60
Property Units	674.80	708.60	+14.80	...
Financial Fund	574.90	608.40	+21.30	...
Managed Ser A	532.10	563.10	+13.30	...
Managed Units	952.30	1002.5	+23.80	...
High Yield Fund	664.10	702.80	+12.80	...
Money Series A	279.10	295.40	+0.20	...
Money Units	368.40	387.80	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	602.20	637.30	+17.40	...
Fixed Interest	393.50	416.50	+6.10	...
Indexed Secs	190.90	202.10	+2.70	...
European Fund	698.70	739.40	+7.30	...
Natural Res	269.60	285.30	-0.40	...
Far East Fund	608.00	643.40	+15.90	...
Smaller Cos	457.80	484.50	+10.90	...
Special Sits	433.00	458.30	+13.10	...
Man Currency	253.50	268.30	-0.40	...
Japanese Tech	233.20	246.80	+6.50	...
US Smaller Cos	221.70	234.70	+4.20	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 0727 48181				
Global Managed	546.40	575.20	-15.50	...
Global Property	263.30	277.20	-0.10	...
Global Fixed Int	535.40	563.60	+11.00	...
Global Equity	580.50	611.00	-20.20	...
Global Cash	206.80	217.70	+0.20	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 0452 371371				
Gtd Mgd	502.30	528.70	+7.00	...
Property	445.00	468.40	+0.30	...
Managed	408.70	430.20	+9.90	...
American	394.20	414.90	+0.80	...
UK Equity Fd	443.90	467.20	+14.40	...
Japan	195.70	205.90	-2.60	...
Index-Lkd	188.80	198.70	-2.40	...
High Yield	840.00	884.20	+21.30	...
Growth Cap	454.60	478.50	+6.90	...
Money	390.40	410.90	+0.20	...
International	376.20	395.90	+4.40	...
Henderson Active	215.00	226.30	+4.30	...
Perpetual Active	319.10	335.80	+5.20	...
Growth Cap	454.60	478.50	+6.90	...
-do- Acc	638.20	671.70	+15.00	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 0273 324000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	135.00	142.20	...	...
-do- Acc	180.50	190.10	+0.30	...
Brit Opps Inl	139.80	147.20	+3.80	...
-do- Acc	168.30	177.20	+4.80	...
Cash Initial	166.90	175.70	-0.50	...
-do- Acc	278.80	293.50	...	...
Equity Initial	650.90	685.20	+19.00	...
-do- Acc	1067.2	1144.5	+34.60	...
Fixed Initial	372.90	392.60	+5.30	...
-do- Acc	622.90	655.70	+10.40	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	143.10	150.70	+1.60	...
-do- Acc	203.90	214.70	+2.80	...
Intl Initial	345.00	363.20	+5.00	...
-do- Acc	567.40	597.30	+9.80	...
Managed Initial	482.10	507.50	-10.70	...
-do- Acc	805.30	847.70	+20.00	...
Property Initial	203.60	214.40	+2.80	...
-do- Acc	340.10	358.00	+5.40	...
LIFE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND 113 Dundas Street, Edinburgh EH3 5EB 031 550 5000				
Managed Fund	350.70	369.20	+11.60	...
UK Equity	576.10	606.50	+16.30	...
Property	290.30	305.60	+8.20	...
Money Market	245.00	257.90	+0.10	...
Fixed Interest	336.00	353.70	+8.50	...
Japan	378.70	398.70	+5.90	...
North America	159.10	167.50	+1.50	...
International	298.30	314.00	+6.50	...
European	265.90	279.90	+4.30	...
Far East	134.40	141.50	+2.90	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 081 902 8876				
Equity Units	2123.28	...	+3.36	...
Property Units	26.63	...	+0.19	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	65.78	69.24	+1.25	...
2nd Equity Acc	630.80	664.00	+17.20	...
2nd High Inc Acc	605.80	637.70	+13.10	...
2nd Property Acc	243.70	256.50	+1.90	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	185.50	195.30	+1.20	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	468.70	493.40	+8.40	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	229.60	241.70	+4.70	...
2nd Deposit Acc	272.70	287.00	+0.20	...
2nd Gilt Acc	318.80	335.60	+4.90	...
2nd Amer Acc	685.00	721.10	+17.20	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	258.80	272.40	+0.50	...
2nd Index Acc	210.70	221.80	+4.30	...
2nd Far East Acc	438.40	461.50	+6.20	...
2nd Global Acc	179.30	188.80	+4.40	...
2nd Euro Acc	155.80	164.00	+1.60	...
2nd Japan Acc	190.90	200.90	+2.40	...
2nd Heritage Acc	71.90	75.60	-0.10	...
2nd Intl Cr Bd Acc	159.90	168.40	-2.30	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	125.90	132.50	+3.80	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0272 279179				
Equity	1894.50	...	+26.70	...
Fixed Interest	1426.30	...	+7.30	...
Property	1363.80	...	+1.10	...
Deposit	1282.60	...	+0.20	...
Mixed	1579.50	...	+11.70	...
Indexed Stock	1220.40	...	+3.10	...
International	1279.20	...	+1.80	...
Equity A	1207.00	...	+6.20	...
Fixed Int A	1199.40	...	+3.20	...
Property A	1155.60	...	-0.50	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Deposit A	166.40	...	+0.10	...
Mixed A	190.80	...	+3.90	...
Index Stock A	172.80	...	+2.40	...
International A	174.70	...	+1.10	...
Equity P	744.60	...	+28.20	...
Fixed Int P	553.60	...	+9.30	...
Property P	291.90	...	+6.10	...
Deposit P	329.20	...	+0.40	...
Mixed P	536.30	...	+14.60	...
Index Stock P	250.50	...	+3.40	...
International P	322.80	...	+2.50	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 0392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap	612.90	...	+13.70	...
-do- Acc	980.60	...	+22.70	...
Property Cap	145.30	...	-7.00	...
-do- Acc	224.40	...	-10.80	...
Fxd Interest Cap	217.40	...	+4.10	...
-do- Acc	337.40	...	+6.70	...
Equity Cap	325.90	...	+10.20	...
-do- Acc	511.60	...	+16.30	...
Internatl Cap	237.80	...	+2.50	...
-do- Acc	370.00	...	+4.20	...
Gtd Deposit Cap	168.70	...	...	...
-do- Acc	258.90	...	+0.10	...
Flexible Cap	353.70	...	+7.40	...
-do- Acc	554.00	...	+12.10	...
Moneymaker Fd	435.90	...	+8.60	...
Capital Growth	1635.4	...	+47.60	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 0245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	404.30	424.60	-0.50	...
Amer Rec Bond	472.40	496.00	-1.20	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	232.70	244.50	+4.30	...
Australasia Bd	217.20	228.10	+2.30	...
Commodity Bond	275.70	289.50	+10.50	...
Deposit Bond Acc	351.00	368.60	+0.20	...
Equity Bond Acc	1422.6	1493.8	+44.70	...
European Bd Acc	345.80	363.20	+3.60	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	711.30	747.00	+25.30	...
Far East Bd Acc	318.30	334.30	+10.90	...
Gilt Bond Acc	475.50	499.40	+10.80	...
Gold Bond Acc	154.50	162.30	+0.70	...
High Yield Bond	345.70	363.10	+6.00	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	221.40	232.50	+4.00	...
International Bd	719.70	755.80	+7.20	...
Japan Bond Acc	254.50	267.30	+7.50	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	240.50	252.60	-3.70	...
Managed Bonds	852.70	895.50	+20.90	...
Prop Bond Acc	356.90	374.90	+8.90	...
Rec Bond Acc	714.50	750.40	+21.60	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 0903 204631				
UK Equity	228.70	240.80	+8.20	...
UK Equity Acc	311.50	327.90	+11.40	...
Special Sits	91.30	96.20	+1.80	...
Special Sits Acc	124.40	131.00	+2.50	...
North American	183.50	193.20	-0.10	...
N American Acc	250.00	263.20	...	...
Pacific Basin	372.10	391.70	+6.50	...
Pacific Basin Acc	506.90	533.60	+9.30	...
Fixed Interest	309.40	325.70	+5.10	...
Fixed Interest Acc	421.90	444.20	+7.30	...
Property	157.20	165.50	+2.30	...
Property Acc	214.30	225.60	+3.10	...
Deposit	152.00	160.00	...	...
Deposit Acc	207.70	218.70	+0.10	...
Managed	261.50	275.30	+6.70	...
Managed Acc	328.30	345.60	+8.70	...
MANULIFE GROUP St Georges Way, Stevenage, Herts 0438 356101				
Managed Fund	693.80	730.30	+15.00	...
Property Fund	480.40	505.70	-9.60	...
Equity Fund	880.30	926.60	+32.60	...
Gilt Edged Fd	639.40	673.10	+10.70	...
Deposit Fund	320.30	337.20	-0.20	...
Investment Fd	373.80	393.50	+14.10	...
International	541.00	569.50	+6.10	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomew House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0272 266 366				
Property	422.40	444.60	+1.50	...
UK Equity	340.50	358.40	+11.30	...
Gilt Edged	612.20	644.40	-21.20	...
Interest Fund	368.70	388.10	+1.50	...
UK Fund	484.80	510.30	+13.70	...
Intl Equity	587.10	618.00	+2.80	...
Intl Managed	545.90	577.70	+4.00	...
North American	211.80	222.90	-0.90	...
Far East	457.30	481.30	+6.30	...
Intl Currency	265.90	279.80	+0.20	...
NM LIFE ASSURANCE Enterprise House, Portsmouth 0705 827733				
Equity	143.40	150.90	+4.40	...
Fixed Interest	551.30	580.30	+6.80	...
Managed	685.80	721.80	+17.60	...
Deposit	329.60	346.90	+0.20	...
Property	397.70	418.60	+3.10	...
American	409.40	430.90	+0.60	...
Australian	505.80	532.40	+11.20	...
European	504.50	531.00	+13.50	...
Gilt & Fixed Inv	261.80	275.50	...	...
Global Managed	134.80	141.80	+0.30	...
Income Acc	757.20	797.00	+14.60	...
-do- Dist	486.40	512.10	+12.80	4.89
International	311.30	327.60	+5.20	...
Japan Smaller	472.60	497.40	+3.20	...
Singapore & Mal	371.90	391.40	+22.10	...
Smaller Cos	380.80	400.80	+6.70	...
Tokyo Fund	628.30	661.30	-18.40	...
UK Equity	586.00	616.80	+21.10	...
CCM Vangd Mg	730.40	768.80	-18.10	...
Equity Pens Cap	986.10	1038.0	-38.50	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 071 623 4200				
Managed	470.50	499.20	+13.90	...
UK Equity	591.30	622.40	+23.20	...
Overseas Equity	458.30	482.40	+8.90	...
Americas	419.20	441.20	-7.70	...
Far East	524.30	551.70	+18.40	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property	200.80	211.30	+3.20	...
Fixed Interest	375.60	395.30	+5.30	...
Indexed Gilt	239.10	251.60	+2.80	...
Deposit	209.70	220.70	+0.20	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 0603 622200				
Managed Fund	1361.3	1432.9	+34.90	...
Eqity Fund	2974.4	3130.9	+98.90	...
Property Fd	480.80	506.10	+12.60	...
Fixed Int Fd	612.20	644.40	+8.00	...
Deposit Fund	336.00	353.70	+0.30	...
Intl Fund	230.90	243.10	+3.50	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 0733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	149.60	157.50	+0.20	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	301.20	317.10	+0.40	...
Inv Equity	1205.0	1268.5	+46.30	...
Inv Managed	831.90	875.70	+23.60	...
Ret Managed	927.10	975.90	+28.10	...
For Prolific see Scottish Provident				
PROVIDENCE CAPITOL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 0256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	291.00	307.00	+11.00	...
Fxd Interest Acc	251.00	264.80	+6.00	...
International Acc	249.80	263.60	+1.70	...
Managed Acc	220.50	232.60	+4.80	...
Property Acc	222.40	234.60	+1.30	...
Money Acc	149.40	157.60	+0.10	...
Spec Mkt Acc	230.40	243.10	+3.20	...
Japan Equity Acc	114.00	120.30	+2.80	...
N Amer Acc	167.50	176.70	+0.30	...
Pacific Acc	162.90	171.90	+2.90	...
European Acc	162.90	171.90	+1.20	...
PROVIDENT MUTUAL William Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 0LP 0438 739000				
Managed Ord	459.50	483.70	+12.40	...
Managed Initial	320.20	337.10	+8.60	...
Equity Ord	691.40	727.80	+24.70	...
Equity Init	481.80	507.20	+17.10	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	211.40	222.50	+2.70	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	153.80	161.90	+1.90	...
Oseas Equity Ord	371.50	391.10	+6.20	...
Oseas Equity Init	258.90	272.50	+4.20	...
Property Ord	245.40	258.30	+7.90	...
Property Init	171.00	180.00	+5.40	...
Fixed Int Ord	289.50	304.70	+3.90	...
Fixed Int Init	201.70	212.30	+2.40	...
Deposit Ord	200.00	210.50	+0.10	...
Deposit Initial	139.30	146.60	...	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 071 405 9222				
Managed	322.70	336.20	+2.40	..
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 071 548 3278				
Managed Fund	747.00	786.40	+19.80	...
Equity Fund	1442.4	1518.4	+51.10	...
Intl Fund	581.60	612.30	+8.30	...
Fixed Interest	594.50	625.80	+7.00	...
Property Fund	408.90	430.50	+17.20	...
Cash Fund	354.30	373.00	+0.20	...
Pacific Basin	347.30	365.60	+6.50	...
N American Fd	237.00	249.50	-1.50	...
Euro Fund	248.10	261.20	+2.60	...
Balanced Fund	149.80	157.70	+3.60	...
Strategic Fund	152.80	160.90	+3.60	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 0733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)	1735.00	...	...	...
-do- Acc	462.80	487.10	...	...
Op Prop	447.00	470.60	+0.20	...
Op Equity	867.20	912.90	+14.90	...
Op High Yield	602.10	633.80	+10.20	...
Op Managed	758.60	798.60	+11.90	...
Op Deposit	380.60	400.70	+0.30	...
Inc Gth	317.70	334.50	+10.30	...
Japan Smlr	239.10	251.70	+5.70	...
Managed Gth	259.00	272.70	+6.90	...
Gilt	86.80	91.40	+1.10	...
British	365.20	384.50	+12.20	...
Global Bond	119.00	125.30	+0.30	...
Global (35,34)	175.70	185.00	+3.00	...
Gold Share	85.60	90.20	+1.20	...
High Income	309.60	325.90	+10.80	...
Income	447.30	470.90	+17.60	...
Japan	382.00	402.20	+13.40	...
UK Smlr Cos	316.50	333.20	+10.40	...
Mngd Growth	454.90	478.90	+10.90	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 051 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	928.60	982.60	+22.20	..
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	370.60	390.10	+8.80	...
Equity Fund	515.30	542.40	+14.00	...
Property Fund	276.30	290.80	...	...
International	463.60	488.00	+2.90	...
Pacific Basin	289.40	304.60	+5.50	...
United States	247.00	259.90	+1.70	...
Gilt Fund	375.30	395.00	+6.10	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 0708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	733.90	776.70	+15.20	2.34
Deposit Fund (2)	357.10	377.90	+0.40	6.17
Gilt Fund	535.10	566.30	+10.00	7.38
Global Equity Fd	227.50	240.80	+4.10	...
Property Fund (46)	91.30	96.70	+0.10	6.42
AG Bond Fund	153.40	162.40	+3.50	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 041 248 2323				
Equity	562.30	591.90	+12.60	..
Fixed Interest	384.90	405.20	+7.80	..
Index-Linked	207.20	218.20	+3.10	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
International	434.70	457.60	+5.10	...
Property	255.40	268.90	+0.30	...
Cash	223.30	235.10	+0.10	...
Managed	444.60	468.00	+8.10	...
Cap Gteed Bd	110.20	116.10	+3.20	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 031 556 9101				
Cash	175.75	185.00	+0.12	...
Index-Linked	168.20	177.10	+2.90	...
Fixed Interest	185.90	195.70	+3.30	...
Mixed	246.40	259.40	+4.100	...
UK Equity	238.00	250.60	+7.50	...
International	246.50	259.40	+2.90	...
American	257.20	270.80	+2.50	...
Japan	222.70	234.40	+4.90	...
European	232.40	244.60	+0.40	...
Pacific	361.30	380.30	+9.20	...
Technology	329.50	346.90	-5.80	...
Currncy/Currncy	231.70	243.90	+0.70	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 031 225 2211				
Property	193.00	203.30	+5.60	...
UK Equity	349.90	368.40	+11.40	...
American	253.60	267.00	+2.10	...
Pacific	351.00	369.60	+5.10	...
European	450.30	474.20	+4.10	...
International	305.50	321.70	+4.70	...
Fixed Interest	254.20	267.70	+4.20	...
Index Linked	205.70	216.60	+3.00	...
Deposit	188.20	198.20	+0.10	...
Managed	281.20	296.10	+7.00	...
Worldwide	124.40	131.00	-2.00	...
Pen Worldwide	132.20	139.20	+2.40	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 041 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1593.4	1642.7	...	...
Safety Fund	240.60	253.30	+4.30	...
Growth Fund	224.90	236.80	+3.60	...
Opportunity Fd	221.50	233.20	+3.60	...
Cash Fund	169.20	178.20	+0.10	...
European Fund	330.90	348.40	+4.90	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	208.00	219.00	+3.80	...
Index-Linked Fd	188.90	198.90	+2.60	...
International Fd	281.30	296.20	+3.10	...
North American	240.40	253.10	+1.20	...
Property Fund	118.40	124.70	+0.10	...
UK Equity	238.20	250.80	+5.70	...
UK Smaller	214.70	226.00	+5.30	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 031 556 9181				
Mixed	260.70	274.60	+4.90	...
Equity	275.20	289.80	+6.60	...
International	280.90	295.80	+4.90	...
Property	203.90	214.70	+2.50	...
Fixed Interest	225.80	237.80	+3.30	...
Index Linked	186.80	196.80	+2.00	...
Cash	181.90	191.60	+0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	777.80	827.50	+16.30	...
Cash Fund	328.50	346.20	+0.30	...
Property Fund	229.20	243.90	+1.80	...
Equity Fund	921.20	980.00	+16.50	...
Fxd Interest Fund	462.30	487.20	+5.90	...
International	414.20	440.70	+7.60	...
High Income	689.20	733.20	+17.50	...
Far East	586.70	624.20	+15.30	...
North American	547.30	582.30	+7.00	...
Special Sits	625.10	665.10	+18.30	...
Technology	530.40	564.30	+5.80	...
Extra Income Fd	372.50	396.30	+9.30	...
Gilt Fund	483.80	514.70	+3.70	...
European	146.80	156.20	+0.60	...
Adventurous Mg	214.50	225.80	+5.00	...
Secure Mgd	144.10	153.40	+2.40	...
Equity Inc Dist	119.20	126.90	+2.10	4.53
North American	113.40	120.70	+2.00	5.17
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 031 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	938.40	938.40	+31.90	...
Inv Pol 2	854.90	900.00	+20.90	...
Inv Pol 3	821.00	864.30	+19.70	...
Inv Cash	303.50	319.60	...	...
Mixed Fund	447.30	471.10	+11.50	...
Equity Fund	327.30	355.10	+16.90	...
Property Fund	216.10	227.50	+0.20	...
International Fd	473.90	499.00	+6.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	391.10	411.80	+5.80	...
Indexed Stock Fd	208.00	219.10	+3.00	...
Cash Fund	220.90	232.60	+0.10	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 0703 334411				
Managed Acc	367.70	387.00	+9.30	...
Equity Acc	430.80	453.40	+16.50	...
International Acc	333.40	350.90	+4.10	...
Property	211.50	222.60	+0.20	...
Royal Trust Mg	237.30	249.70	+8.00	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 031 225 2552				
Cash	260.80	274.60	+0.10	...
Equity	989.60	1041.7	+32.40	...
European	160.00	168.50	+1.10	...
Far East	167.00	175.80	+1.70	...
Fixed Interest	416.50	438.50	+7.00	...
Index Linked	214.70	226.10	+2.20	...
International	599.70	631.30	-3.80	...
Managed	691.70	728.20	+16.70	...
Nth American	145.70	153.40	-0.20	...
Property	330.30	347.70	+2.10	...
Pensions				
Cash	402.20	423.40	+0.30	...
Equity	1416.7	1491.3	+47.70	...
European	191.00	201.10	-1.40	...
Far East	133.80	140.90	+1.90	...
Fixed Interest	559.60	589.10	+8.50	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Index Linked	297.40	313.10	+3.10	...
International	844.80	889.30	+7.80	...
Managed	965.50	1016.4	+24.40	...
Nth American	182.10	191.70	+0.30	...
Property	421.80	444.00	+2.30	...
Stock Exchange	218.50	230.00	+5.70	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 0403 232323				
Managed Fund	646.00	680.00	+17.50	..
Equity Fund	859.50	904.80	+29.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	437.60	460.70	+7.50	...
Index-Linked Fd	320.20	337.10	+6.00	...
Property Fund	467.90	492.60	+0.70	...
International Fd	621.60	654.40	+12.50	...
N American Fd	239.70	252.40	+2.20	...
Far East Fund	230.30	242.50	+6.80	...
Deposit Fund	286.40	301.50	-0.20	...
International Bd	183.07	...	-2.13	...
Worldwide Bond	165.40	174.20	+0.40	...
Worldwide Fincl	79.80	84.00	...	...
Worldwide Tech	94.90	99.90	...	...
European	154.70	162.90	+2.00	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	634.40	667.90	+17.20	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	444.80	472.90	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund	536.40	...	+0.80	...
-do- Acc	502.40	...	-0.70	...
Agricultural Fd	775.30	...	+0.50	...
-do- Acc	744.90	...	+0.50	...
Abbey Nat Fd	411.30	..	+1.20	...
Abbey Nat Acc	436.30	...	+1.20	...
Investment Fd	342.10	...	+8.90	...
Investment (A)	328.90	...	+8.50	...
Equity	1244.2	...	+40.50	...
Equity Acc	1194.2	...	+38.90	...
Money Fund	454.50	...	+0.40	...
-do- Acc	435.90	...	+0.40	...
Actuarial Fd	576.10	...	+13.90	...
Gilt-Edged Fd	408.70	...	+6.60	...
-do- Acc	408.70	...	+6.60	...
Retire Annuity	1069.8	...	+14.80	...
Immed Annuity	313.50	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life	218.90	...	+0.10	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 0256 841414				
Growth Account	1453.7	...	-74.20	...
Managed Acc	807.70	...	-3.50	...
Equity Account	1130.3	...	-1.90	...
Mngd Fund Acc	373.50	393.20	-1.80	...
Equity Fund Acc	496.80	523.00	-0.90	...
Prop Fund Acc	228.40	240.50	+0.30	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	323.50	340.60	+1.50	...
Money Fund Acc	215.00	226.30	+0.10	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	214.50	225.80	-0.80	...
Pers Pens Acct	1809.9	...	+27.40	...
Pens Mngd Acct	841.50	885.70	+13.30	...
Pens Guarantee	231.30	243.40	+0.30	...
Pens Equity	320.30	337.20	+8.80	...
Pens Property	254.60	268.10	+0.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	295.60	311.20	+6.50	..
Pens Intl	228.80	240.80	-3.90	...
Pens Money	227.40	239.40	+0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	202.80	213.50	+1.40	..
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0272 426911				
Managed Acc	889.90	936.80	+23.50	...
Property Acc	341.70	359.70	+9.30	...
Equity Acc	1451.1	1527.5	+51.30	...
Fixed Int Acc	414.20	436.00	+7.20	...
Index-Linked Acc	214.00	225.30	+3.30	...
Cash Acc	300.20	316.00	+0.20	...
Amer Equity Acc	358.30	377.20	-4.70	...
Japan Acc	286.30	301.40	-1.30	..
Pacific Acc	362.30	381.40	+6.50	...
Far Eastern Acc	837.70	881.80	+8.20	...
International Acc	560.50	590.10	+7.00	...
Distribution Fund	295.00	310.60	+7.80	5.63
European	178.60	188.10	+2.10	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE 0264 345678				
Managed Fund	274.60	289.00	-0.20	..
Property Fund	193.00	203.30	...	...
Fixed Interest Fd	230.20	242.50	+2.90	...
Money Fund	194.00	204.30	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	365.90	385.30	+8.30	...
TARGET LIFE The Exchange, 66 High Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. 0296 394000				
Deposit	242.50	255.40	+0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	47.40	50.90	+2.00	...
Fixed Interest	328.90	346.30	+1.20	...
Gold	85.40	90.00	-1.20	...
Managed	607.10	639.10	+7.80	...
Mngd Growth	187.50	197.50	-1.10	...
Mngd Opp	195.80	206.30	-1.20	...
Property	266.20	280.30	...	...
Residential Prop	94.20	99.20	-2.20	...
TSB American	208.20	219.30	+1.70	...
TSB Brit Gwth	831.90	875.80	+34.20	...
TSB European	254.60	268.10	+1.00	...
TSB Income	401.80	423.00	+15.00	...
TSB Intl	415.90	437.90	+3.70	...
TSB Intl Inc	291.90	307.40	+2.50	...
TSB Pacific	401.00	422.20	+9.00	...
TSB Prem Inc	269.80	281.80	+4.50	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 0952 292929				
Managed Bond	688.70	725.70	+9.10	..
Money Fund	307.50	323.70	+0.20	..
Equity Fund	579.30	610.40	+9.10	...
Fixed Interest	283.90	298.70	+1.90	..
Property Fund	341.50	359.80	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Genl	575.50	606.40	+10.10	...
Income	727.20	786.30	+21.60	...
International Gth	610.30	643.10	+14.50	...
Capital Fund	589.90	621.60	+12.40	...
Recovery Fund	601.10	633.40	+8.00	...
Japan & General	362.90	277.00	+4.40	...

هكذا من الأصل



MIRAS DOOMED 27

The impact of lower mortgage interest relief

WEEKEND MONEY

ERNIE'S WISE 29

Premium Bonds can be a nice little earner



Furious forties join the pension rebels

Sara McConnell reports on a mounting range of campaigns to change the government's mind over equalisation of the state pension age at 65

This Tuesday at 11 o'clock, a petition with 100,000 signatures on it will be delivered to 10 Downing Street by the State Pension at 60 Alliance.

The petition says: "We, the undersigned, are alarmed that the government is considering raising the age at which women can draw a state pension, from 60 to 65. We urge you not to do this but reduce the retirement age for men and women to 60."

This looks like being a forerunner to a whole raft of petitions, demonstrations and campaigns being planned in response to the government's announcement in the Budget that the state pension age would be equalised at 65 for men and women.

The decision has provoked outrage both from women under 44 who will have to work five more years before they can draw a full pension, and from many men, who have been campaigning for the right to retire before 65.

The change will be phased in over 10 years starting in 2010. A woman born in April 1950, who will be 60 in 2010, will be able to draw a state pension at 60 years and one month. Someone born in April 1951 will retire in 2012, aged 61 years and one month. The phasing-in process will be complete with those born in April 1955, who will retire at 65 in the year 2020.

At the moment, the state pension for a single person or a married couple both contributing is £2,917.20 each a year, rising to £2,995.20 from next April. Those who have made enough national insurance contributions could also get up to about £3,000 from the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps).

The only way of recouping some or all of this without working for an extra five years is to make extra private provision, either through a personal pension or, for those in company schemes, through additional voluntary contributions (AVCs). Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, the actuary, calculates that a 35 year old woman with no private pension provision and retiring at 65 would need to put £153 a month into a pension now to get a pension of £5,000 a year. At 45 the cost goes up to £262 while at 55 the cost will be £590. These costs are lower than they would be for women retiring at 60, as they have five more years to contribute. The figures assume a 9 per cent investment return, a 6 per cent annual rise in earnings and a long-term interest rate at retirement age of 7.5 per cent.

Women are living longer but many are retiring earlier, either as an alternative to being made redundant or because they choose to. Women tend to rely on the state pension more than men, who are likely to have some private or occupational provision. Many women will not be in a position to fund their own pension and will have to depend on other benefits to tide them over the five-year gap.

Veronica Bayne of the State Pension at 60 Alliance said: "We have been trying to take the campaign into shopping centres and other places, and

'People are horrified that they will have five years stolen from them'

people are horrified that they will have five years stolen from them by the government."

The government was forced into taking action on the present unequal state pension age partly by a landmark decision, Barber v Guardian Royal Exchange, in the European Court of Justice in May 1990. This ruled that company pensions were part of pay and must be equal, meaning companies had to have equal retirement ages and benefits for men and women employees.

Although the ruling did not directly affect the state pension, most company pensions are designed to fit in with it. Having unequal pension ages for men and women made complying with the European requirement very difficult.

But the government's overriding concern was to cut the cost of paying a growing number of pensioners out of a dwindling national insurance fund. The fund works on a pay as you go basis, so that the contributions of workers go straight to funding retired people's pensions.

The cost of state pensions is now just under £30 billion but will be £60 billion by 2025. Not only are pensioners living longer and drawing pensions for longer, but the babyboomers of the late 1940s and 1960s will be pensioners by 2030.

In 1991, there were 3.3 working people to each pensioner, the government says. By 2030, if pension ages are unchanged at 60 for women and 65 for men, the ratio will fall to 2.2. Equalising the state pension at 65 would raise the ratio to 2.7.

Almost two years ago the government published a consultative document, *Options for Equality in State Pension Age*. This set out four options: retirement for everyone at 65, retirement for everyone at 60, retirement for everyone at 63, and a "flexible decade" allowing people to retire between 60 and 70.

This week, it published a white paper setting out its proposals to be enshrined in legislation. The government estimates in 1991 that it would save £4 billion a year by 2025 by forcing everyone to work until they are 65. Allowing everyone to retire at 60 on the other hand will cost £5 billion a year by 2025. The effects of retiring at 63 are broadly neutral. In the long term, a "flexible decade" would cost almost as much as equalising at 60, the government says.

Not surprisingly, the government has opted to save money and equalise at 65. In an attempt to soften the blow, those who work beyond 65 will be entitled to an increment of 10 per cent a year for each successive year they work beyond retirement age. At the moment the increment is 7.5 per cent a year. There will be no age limit on the number of years a pensioner can defer beyond 65. It is also intending to extend Home Responsibilities Protection (HRP). This reduces the number of years of national insurance contributions needed to qualify for a full pension, at present 44, and is mostly given to women looking after small children or dependent relatives. Men and women will both be covered for 22 years. HRP will also be extended to the state earnings related pension (Serps) as well as the basic state pension, allowing people to get a full Serps pension on the basis of 20 years' earnings.

This is not enough for opponents of the government's plan. Lorraine Fletcher, pensions co-ordinator at the Equal Opportunities Commission, said the decision had been made on the basis of inaccurate costings. "It is not possible to estimate what the population will be because we don't know how many people will be born. There is immigration and emigration. We don't know how the economy is going to shape up."

Weekend Money is edited by Rose Wild



ALAN WELLER



NEWS TEAM

Both Jean Travell, with daughter Jennifer, and Mike Billingham think government plans for pensions are unworkable and all should retire at 60

Equal in retirement age, and equal in dissent

WHEN she heard she would have to wait another five years for her state pension, Jean Travell's first reaction was anger. She is 36 and had fully expected to retire on a state pension at 60. Now she is anxious about how she will bridge this unexpected five-year gap (Sara McConnell writes).

The possibility of buying a personal pension is not practical for Ms Travell, a single parent on income support with an eight-year-old daughter. She said: "There is no way I could afford private pension provision on income support.". She has trained in video production and as a teacher but worked long hours in her last job and the cost of childcare meant she was only £12 better off working than receiving benefit. She works as a volunteer at the Fawcett Society several days a week but the prospects of obtaining a job paying enough to allow her to make up the thousands of pounds she will lose by having to retire at 65 are slim.

Alison Payne 39, who works in advertising, has made her own pension provision, putting £400 a month in three policies, as well as using a transfer value from a previous company pension. She has been making her own provision since 25 and hopes to retire on about £25,000 a year but thinks having to wait five years longer for a state pension is "really unfair". She said: "I will lose a hell of a lot of money". She foresees problems in keeping a job in advertising, a predominantly young profession, when she is over 60 and says career changes or breaks will be more difficult because of the need to make up five years' lost money.

Men may have had nearly a century to get used to retiring at 65 but this does not mean they like it. For many, the decision to make everyone retire at 65 is as much of a blow as it is for women, says Mike Billingham, a member of the State Pension at 60 Alliance and president of the United Road Transport Union. He has been "inundated" with long distance lorry drivers desperate to retire at 60. And not just drivers: "If you speak to any men they are all wanting to go at 60." More than half of all men between 60 and 65 are unemployed through ill health or having to retire early.

Cheques and counterchecks

The departments in banks responsible for devising ways to irritate customers never fail to amaze. In the week the Consumers' Association published a survey showing that customers are getting fed up with the service they get from banks, a reader received a letter from Abbey National that would enrage most customers.

Having requested a cheque book on November 17 for his joint account he applied for a second, by post, last Sunday, when his wife's cheque book ran out. Two days later, one arrived, closely followed by a letter saying they could not have another — the bank's records showed that there were "several unused cheques" on the account. However, if the customer needed a cheque book urgently he should telephone Leeds.

There, a young lady said that the letter had been introduced because the bank found that customers liked to keep a cheque book in reserve. This, it seems must be discouraged. The fact that couples do not tend to share one cheque book may have escaped the bank.

It is, of course, all the computer's fault. The bank issues books when the computer says that sufficient cheques have been used. In this case, the bank reckoned that a book had been issued 15 months ago that had not been used. If the bank is worried about the possibility of fraud it might be better to check three months after dispatch of a new book if it is not used. The bank also told the customer that another book, that started being used in September still had a dozen or so unused cheques. These, the customer patiently explained, had been

COMMENT



LINDSAY COOK

Deputy Business Editor

used to pay a raft of bills on the day that the new book was requested.

After minutes of haggling the customer was told that the book sent in July last year would be cancelled and a new one would be sent. Oh yes, and it would be helpful to order a new one straightaway!

It is not surprising with such improvements to the banking service that customers are as dissatisfied now as they were before the banking code of practice was introduced last year. Most banks now rely on computer programs to tell them when to issue new cheque books. Unfortunately, spending patterns change so that a customer who writes six cheques a month for 11 months of the year gets a little bit frantic in December — when two books normally get used — and not a single cheque is to hand.

Voting rights

Voting papers are being sent out to the members of the Leeds Permanent Building Society for the election of board directors at its annual meeting next month. Once again, they indicate the sickly state of democracy within the building society movement. The Leeds, which has had members attempting to get on the board, without success, for several years, does not seem prepared to offer them a hand. The rules are just as arduous as previously. A member has to get the nomination of 50 investors who have maintained £100 for two years in their account — the industry maximum. It sounds quite easy, but without the help of the society it is impossible for all but the most persistent. Even the most publicly-spirited customers may not want to tell a stranger whether they have ever fallen below a balance of £100 during the previous two years, even if they can remember. Jim French, who is standing again this year, failed in his first attempt to get enough qualifying nominations. In the second year, his election address did not reach the society in time, so he could not have his say. Last year, his vote rose substantially and he hopes that he can make it this time on to the board.

If persistence were a virtue then Mr French should make it without help. There will be none. A special resolution calling on the society to use similar rules to those employed in general and local elections is opposed by the society.

No one wants cranks on the boards of building societies, but the election system employed for councils and Parliament seems to allow crazies their voice without their being elected. Boards must be balanced and professional, but that should not exclude the membership. If societies were not so fearful of their members, they might allow them an unfettered choice in thir annual elections.

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Source: Investment Intelligence. The figures are calculated on an offer-to-bid basis with net income reinvested. Recovery + 76.5% (1st September 88 – 1st September 93 offer-to-bid with net income reinvested).

THE M&G GROUP

Where best to invest: BES or Son of BES?



UNIFIED BUDGET 1993

Should investors hurry for the last of the BES schemes or wait for its successor, EIS? **Robert Miller** surveys the options



Angora goats were an investment opportunity in the early days of Business Expansion Schemes

The watchword for investors must be *caveat emptor* in the dying days of Business Expansion Schemes. However tempting the marketeers of these schemes may make them — and they are working flat out to raise more than £300 million before the shutter comes down on December 31 — independent financial advice is essential.

Nor should Tuesday's unveiling of the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) be allowed to colour investment judgments. The tax breaks and aims of the current crop of BES schemes and the new schemes announced in the Budget are very different.

The EIS is an attempt to return to the original aim of the BES schemes when they were launched in 1983: to raise money for brave new business ventures. BES investors qualify for tax relief at 25 per cent or 40 per cent on an annual maximum investment of £40,000. EIS investors will be given up-front tax relief at 20 per cent on qualifying investments of up to £100,000 in any tax year.

Capital gains will be tax-free and there will be income and capital gains tax relief on losses. One potential pitfall for investors is that although EIS tax breaks apply to shares in unquoted trading companies issued on or after January 1 1994, there is an upper limit of £40,000 on anyone's combined investment in BES and EIS for the tax year 1993-4. The £100,000 limit will apply after April 6.

Another big difference is that almost all the final BES schemes will be linked to investment in companies that provide private residential accommodation on assured tenancies, with fixed exit prices underwritten by banks or financial institutions. Generally, the latest schemes are offering exit prices at the end of the five-year qualifying period of between 120p and 125p for every £1 invested. To emphasise the difference between the old and the new, the Inland Revenue has stated that the EIS schemes "will not extend to investment in private rented housing".

Some BES schemes closed their subscription periods last Saturday on the chance that the Chancellor might have abolished them immediately in Tuesday's Budget. Anthony Yadgaroff, managing director of the Allenbridge Group, a firm of specialist advisers, says that now this threat has been removed promoters are returning to the market for even more funds.

Mr Yadgaroff quotes the example of Nationwide Building Society's Premier BES, which has an "arranged" exit price of 121p. He says: "This particular offer closed last Saturday, having raised more than £62 million. Now it is looking for a further £10 million."

Other similar current "arranged" exit BES offers include the Royal Bank of Scotland's Bessa RBS with an exit price of 125p.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, senior tax consultant of the accountants Chantrey Vellacott, says the key to picking any of the current arranged exit schemes is the strength and respectability of the financial institution underwriting the offer.

Gareth Pearce, a partner at Smith & Williamson, says investors attracted to the idea of becoming a business angel under the EIS schemes should do nothing until details are revealed when the finance bill is published in January. "Traditionally, the Inland Revenue tends to make the rules for such schemes very tight to start with, to limit any possible tax avoidance loopholes being exploited. Only later may the rules be relaxed," he says.

Clarke faces conflict on granny bonds

A good deal for elderly investors could anger building societies

The hardest part of Kenneth Clarke's Budget is yet to come (Robert Miller writes). Over the next four weeks, he will have to set what he promised in Tuesday's speech would be a "decent" fixed rate of interest for the new National Savings five-year pensioners' guaranteed income bond. This will be available in January to savers aged 65 and over.

He has to be careful not to annoy the building society movement, which would not take kindly to a new bond with such a competitive interest rate that their depositors' funds would pour into the government's savings arm. When National Savings launched its one-year fixed-rate First Option bond last July, Cheltenham & Gloucester immediately raised its mortgage rate in retaliation. The First Option bond rate was promptly cut and then withdrawn for several months. In setting the new bond rate, the Chancellor will have to put himself in the savers' shoes for once. Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of the Cheltenham & Gloucester, explains: "As long as the interest rate for the pensioners' bond is genuinely competitive, I don't see why we cannot match it and compete on level terms. But I think that with interest rates at a seeming low, for pensioners to lock into a five-year fixed-rate bond might be unwise."

The warning from Adrian Coles, director-general of the Building Societies Association, is blunter. He says: "It is very questionable that now is the right time for investors to put their money into a five-year fixed-rate savings bond. Selling such bonds to the elderly at the bottom of the interest rate cycle may not win the government very many friends in the long term."

BUDGET BRIEFINGS

Budget proposals in brief:

☐ Tax relief on private medical insurance for over-60s is to be limited to 25 per cent, rather than 40 per cent as at present. Administrative details have also been simplified. At the moment, if one member of a couple dies and the surviving spouse is under 60, premiums become taxable immediately. Under new proposals, the premiums will attract tax relief until the end of the contract.

☐ The Government is to close the loophole that has allowed employers to help staff avoid tax by paying them in unusual ways, such as in gold bars and coffee beans. These, plus other tax-dodging payments such as offshore trusts, are to become liable for income tax.

☐ The earnings ceiling for tax relief on pension plans is to be increased from the first £75,000 of earnings to the first £76,800. This cap applies to everyone who contributes to a personal pension scheme, is a member of an occupation scheme set up since March 1989 or joined any company scheme after May 1989.

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Michael and Elaine Bowles, with son Arran, still think it is a good time to buy, despite the reduction in interest relief

Miras on the way out — with barely a whimper

Liz Dolan says reports of Miras's demise were often exaggerated but are now incontrovertible

Mortgage tax relief has been the subject of several premature obituaries over the past 20 years. This week, Kenneth Clarke, playing the Grim Reaper, decided it was time to go for the jugular. Mortgage interest relief at source (Miras) was moved to Death Row, with little hope of reprieve.

With tax relief already limited to 20 per cent after next April, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's decision to lower the limit still further to 15 per cent in 1995 left few in any doubt of his ultimate intentions. Miras was for the chop.

Considering the howls of rage that greeted earlier threats, it is at first sight surprising that the industry accepted the news with something akin to relief.

In 1975, an Abbey National spokesman was quoted in the *Daily Mail*: "If you take away the income tax relief, it has to be a tremendous blow to a man's family budget. It would certainly affect people's standards of living tremendously." Eighteen years on, the Alliance & Leicester Building Society was philosophical: "At least the announcement will reduce speculation on the fate of Miras." The Council of Mortgage Lenders looked on the bright side: "It's not as bad as if it had been abolished overnight. We would prefer it not to have happened but, this way, people have time to plan."

Housebuyers themselves also appear resigned. Michael and Elaine Bowles are about to exchange contracts on a three bedroom maisonette in Brighton after living in rented accommodation for three years. Mrs Bowles said the extra £20 a month they will have to pay in 1995-6 after tax relief on mortgage interest is reduced to 15 per cent "will make a difference. But we went for a property which was quite a lot less than we could afford". She added: "We would rather it [Miras restrictions] hadn't happened but it isn't going to stop us. We still think it is a good time to buy."

The couple are borrowing £34,000 from the Alliance & Leicester to buy the £36,500 property. Their mortgage rate is fixed for the first three years at 6.55 per cent. Buying is now cheaper than renting for many people particularly in smaller properties, even with the additional costs buyers will have to meet because of Miras restrictions.

Miras is already a mere shadow of its former self. Until 1974, home buyers got relief on the full amount of the loan at their highest marginal rate, in some cases 98 per cent. From that year, relief was limited to the first £25,000 of the loan. This was hardly onerous. According to the Building Societies Association, only 160 of the 435,000 mortgages granted in 1974 were above £24,000.

The limit was increased to £30,000 in 1983 when the prevailing system of relief, under which allowable interest was deducted from taxable income, was replaced by Miras. Ten years ago, it was still perfectly possible in many parts of the country to buy a decent three, or four, bedroom house for less than the Miras ceiling. In those days, when the highest tax band was 60 per cent, borrowers were still able to claim higher rate relief.

When house prices later doubled, the government made no attempt to increase the tax relief ceiling. Then, in 1991-2, higher rate relief was abolished. The noose was tightening. This week, Mr Clarke has loosened the bolt on the trap door.

Higher tax bills for married couples

Personal tax allowances have been frozen. The sole exception is the blind person's allowance, which rises from £1,080 to £1,200 in April. Already due to fall to 20 per cent in April, the value of the married couple's allowance will be reduced to 15 per cent in 1995. This also applies to additional personal allowances, widows' bereavement allowances and relief on maintenance payments after divorce or separation. The married couple's allowance is frozen at £1,720, except that for the over-65s, where it rises from £2,445 to 2,665, or from £2,505 to £2,705 for those over 75. The 20 per cent band will rise by £500 to £3,000 in 1994-5. The 25 per cent band will remain at £3,001-£23,700. The single person's allowance is frozen at £3,445.

☐ Measures are to be introduced to deter the use of profit-related pay (PRP) schemes as a means of dodging income tax. At the moment, employers can manipulate the profit-related portion of the total salary in such a way as to boost the tax-free proportion of the total. Now, the government proposes reserving the right to increase the upper limit on profits that employers may disregard in calculating PRP. Regulations will also be introduced to prevent one group of employees in a business from benefiting more than the rest from the scheme.

☐ The rules on cheap and interest-free loans from employers are to be changed to take into account the restrictions in mortgage interest tax relief. The interest saved by employees is now to be added to their other income and taxed at their marginal rate. They will then be entitled to mortgage interest relief on both the interest paid (if any), and on the interest saved.

☐ The assessment of personal tax is to be radically simplified under legislation to be included in the 1994 finance bill. The 9 million people, including 4 million self-employed, who have to fill in a tax return every year, will be taxed on profits, income and interest in the year they were earned, starting from April 1997. Starting in the tax year 1996-7, they will also be able to choose to calculate their own tax liability rather than supplying the information to the Revenue to be worked out by the taxman. Self-employed people's profits will be calculated on a current year basis instead of on a preceding year basis, using the previous year's profits as a basis for the calculation, as under the present system. Self-employed people starting in business after April 5, 1994 will be taxed on this basis from then.

☐ From next Wednesday, people will no longer be able to avoid stamp duty by exchanging their homes rather than selling them. From that date, duty will be charged on the exchange of land and buildings, whether money is involved or not. When the price payable cannot be determined, duty will be charged on the open market value. At the moment, when one freehold property is exchanged for another, duty of 1 per cent is only charged if the transaction includes more than £60,000 cash with one property.

☐ The scale charges for fuel provided for the private use of company cars are to rise by 6 per cent. Free fuel is to be taxed at the same levels as other drivers pay for their fuel. These changes will take effect in April next year. The cash equivalent of free fuel provided for private motoring is fixed in relation to three engine size bands. The driver of a 1600cc company car who is a basic rate taxpayer will pay £3.89 a week tax next year on private fuel, compared with £3.65 this.

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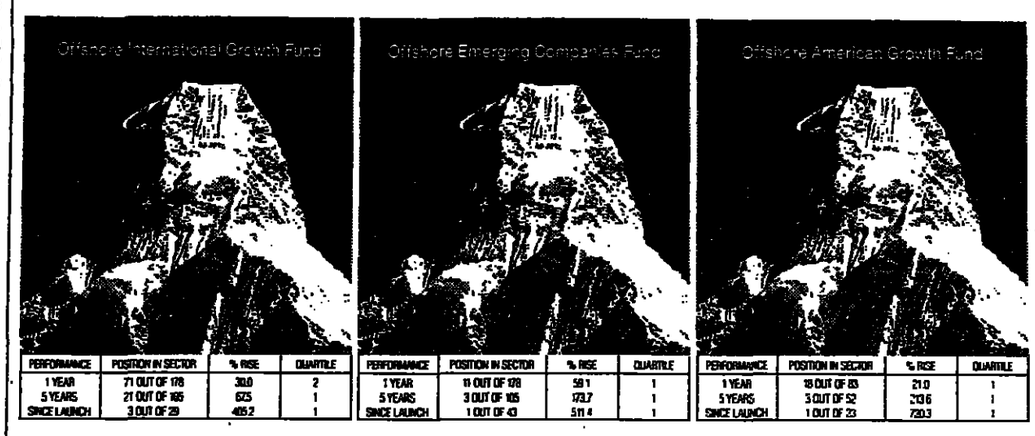
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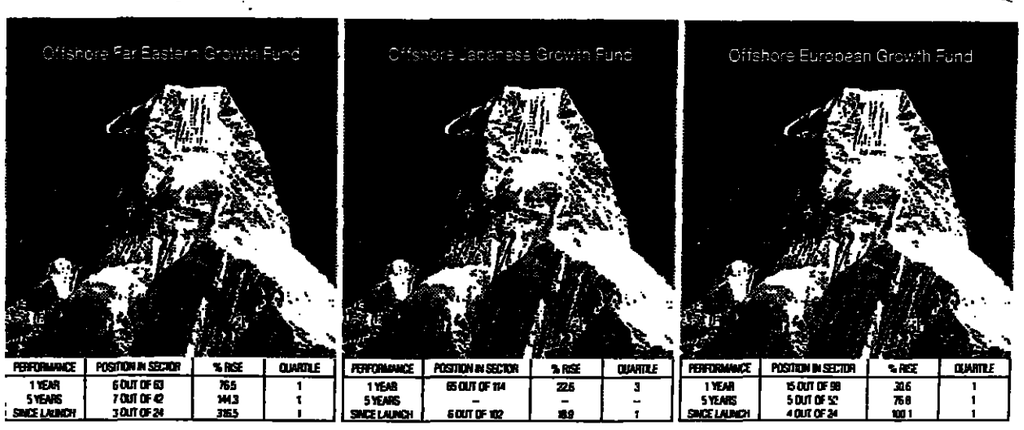
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SINCE LAUNCH	3 OUT OF 29	405.2	1

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1 YEAR	11 OUT OF 178	59.1	1
5 YEARS	3 OUT OF 105	173.7	1
SINCE LAUNCH	1 OUT OF 43	511.4	1

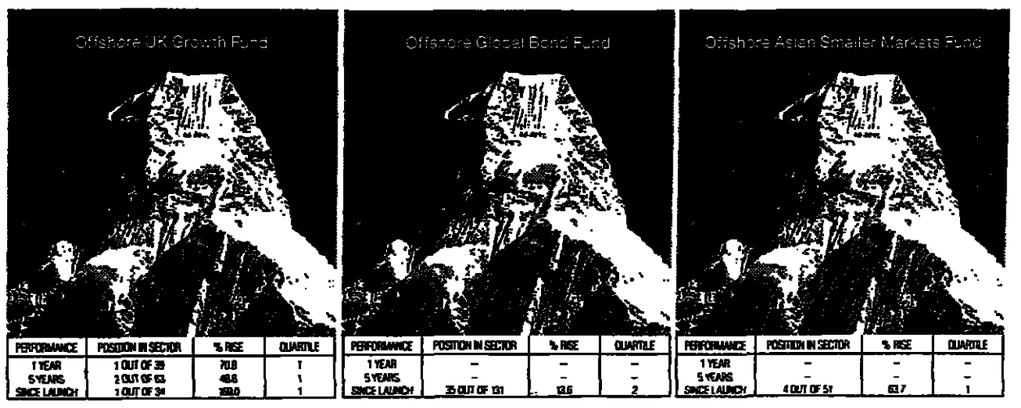
PERFORMANCE	POSITION IN SECTOR	% RISE	QUARTILE
1 YEAR	18 OUT OF 83	21.0	1
5 YEARS	3 OUT OF 52	210.6	1
SINCE LAUNCH	1 OUT OF 23	720.3	1



PERFORMANCE	POSITION IN SECTOR	% RISE	QUARTILE
1 YEAR	6 OUT OF 63	76.5	1
5 YEARS	7 OUT OF 42	144.3	1
SINCE LAUNCH	3 OUT OF 24	316.5	1

PERFORMANCE	POSITION IN SECTOR	% RISE	QUARTILE
1 YEAR	85 OUT OF 114	22.6	3
5 YEARS	–	–	–
SINCE LAUNCH	6 OUT OF 102	18.9	1

PERFORMANCE	POSITION IN SECTOR	% RISE	QUARTILE
1 YEAR	15 OUT OF 98	30.6	1
5 YEARS	5 OUT OF 52	76.8	1
SINCE LAUNCH	4 OUT OF 24	100.1	1



PERFORMANCE	POSITION IN SECTOR	% RISE	QUARTILE
1 YEAR	1 OUT OF 39	70.8	1
5 YEARS	2 OUT OF 63	48.6	1
SINCE LAUNCH	1 OUT OF 34	359.0	1

PERFORMANCE	POSITION IN SECTOR	% RISE	QUARTILE
1 YEAR	–	–	–
5 YEARS	–	–	–
SINCE LAUNCH	35 OUT OF 131	13.6	2

PERFORMANCE	POSITION IN SECTOR	% RISE	QUARTILE
1 YEAR	–	–	–
5 YEARS	–	–	–
SINCE LAUNCH	4 OUT OF 51	63.7	1

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Roland Nuttall's investment made a £2,000 profit — but for a while he feared it had gone into a black hole

Suspicious brokers froze investor's £77,000 nest egg

Tony Hetherington reports on a private investor who was wrongly suspected of money laundering

A Merseyside man who sold his business and decided to invest £75,000 in shares found his money was frozen for over four months when his stockbrokers reported him to Scotland Yard as a suspected money launderer.

Roland Nuttall lives in Heswall, a village on the Wirral peninsula. He had fancied investing in the stock market for some time, and had read books on the subject. So he deposited the sale proceeds of his business with Abbey National and then contacted B W D Rensburg, a major firm of stockbrokers with a branch in Liverpool.

After a meeting in Rensburg's offices a broker, David Black, told Mr Nuttall: "I will be delighted to act on your behalf ... I look forward to receiving your cheque, in due course." Mr Nuttall then obtained a £75,000 cheque from Abbey National, and asked Mr Black to buy Eurotunnel shares. The investment was successful and the shares were sold at a profit of £2,000.

But when Mr Nuttall asked Rensburgs to invest in Lookers shares, the brokers refused — and also refused to return his £77,000.

Mr Woolfenden, Rensburg's compliance director, said he found Mr Nuttall's conduct "unusual" and complained he had refused to give details of his bankers, accountants or solicitors, gave a telephone number not in the local directory, used an address which was not his home and gave a different name to that on Abbey National's cheque.

Rensburgs also told Mr Nuttall: "You appear to be familiar with the workings of the stock market — yet you say you have not previously used any firm of stockbrokers."

Mr Nuttall told them: "I have not refused to give the name of my accountant. I do not have one." Similarly, he had not refused the name of his solicitor, but had explained he used different lawyers for different purposes. His telephone number was simply ex-directory — and the brokers knew where he banked, having received a cheque from him.

He had given the brokers his office address because that was where he wanted contract notes sent. He had also given his correct name throughout — though the brokers themselves had spelt it incorrectly.

Rensburg's solicitors then added a new suggestion. They told Mr Nuttall's solicitor: "The issue is whether the funds placed with our clients by yours are rightfully his."

Mr Nuttall's solicitor offered to produce his passport, and his Abbey National book to prove ownership of the money. Rensburgs did not budge.

Local fraud squad officers confirmed they had no interest in Mr Nuttall, but said they could not help him get his cash back. He then approached his MP and the Securities and Futures Authority. They revealed Rensburgs had given his name to the National Criminal Intelligence Service.

Set up last year to gather information on suspicious transactions, the NCIS has collected more than 5,000 pieces of useful intelligence, resulting in well over 300 arrests. But Mr Nuttall was not one of them.

After the intervention of the Securities and Futures Authority, Rensburgs agreed to return Mr Nuttall's money. But the broker's solicitors demanded that he first promised never to disclose what had happened. Mr Nuttall agreed — on condition that the brokers compensated him and paid his legal fees of £1,175. The brokers then repaid the cash, but gave no compensation, legal costs, or apology.

The chief executive of Rensburgs has refused to comment on why his firm froze Mr Nuttall's funds, in apparent contravention of the SFA's own confidential advice that brokers do nothing more than convey suspicions to the NCIS for investigation.

"This firm sought legal advice and acted upon it," he said. "As far as the SFA, our solicitors and this firm are concerned, this matter is concluded."

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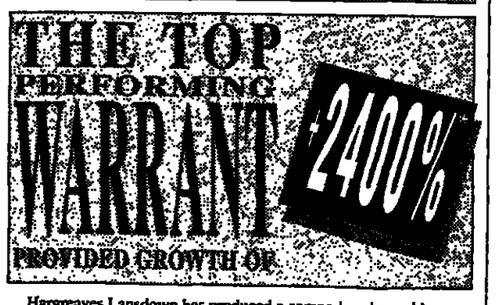
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The importance of being in Ernie

Helen Pridham finds out why more investors are putting money in a bond that pays no interest

With interest rates down again, savers who want to keep some money in a risk-free, easy access account — and everyone needs some such funds for emergencies — are likely to find bank or building society accounts are paying them next to nothing.

Consequently, one alternative that has been regaining popularity rapidly over the last year is Premium Bonds.

Their main attraction, of course, is the chance of winning the monthly jackpot prize of £250,000 tax free, and all that is sacrificed is the interest that would have been earned elsewhere. The savings remain intact and getting the money back normally takes less than a week. Monthly sales of Premium Bonds this year have been higher than at any time since they were launched 37 years ago in November 1956. In that first month £48 million of bonds were sold. In April this year, the monthly total exceeded that amount for the first time with sales of £52 million. But since then new records have been reached. Sales in September were at an all time high of £64 million.

> Sales of Premium Bonds this year have been higher than at any time since they were launched

Several factors have contributed to the increase. For one thing, National Savings have started advertising Premium Bonds again.

Another reason is that the maximum holding of bonds was increased from £10,000 to £20,000 in April this year. However, it is unlikely that so many bonds would have been purchased if interest rates and inflation had not been so low, making other options less attractive. Reduced worries about inflation have resulted in less being deposited in index-linked savings certificates so far this year than in Premium Bonds.

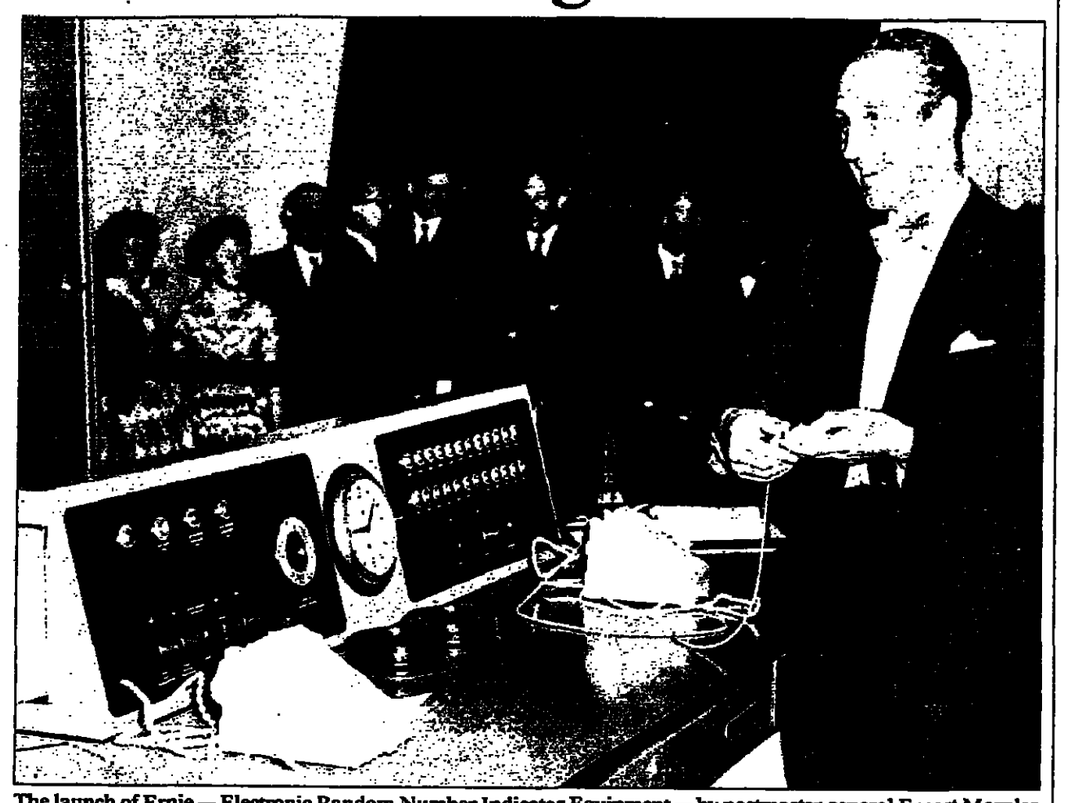
In addition to the jackpot prize, there are five monthly prizes of £10,000, 25 of £5,000, and about 180,000 prizes of between £50 and £1,000 each. There is also a weekly draw every Saturday for prizes of £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000. During November, £11.4 million prize money will be won, bringing the total since the first draw, in June 1957, to £2.56 billion.

The underlying rate of interest which determines the size of the monthly Premium Bond prize fund is currently 5 per cent a year on eligible bonds which at present total 2.3 billion.

Monthly variations in the number of eligible bonds result in adjustments to the number of smaller prizes given away each month.

The current odds against any single £1 bond winning a prize in the monthly draw are 15,000 - 1.

A National Savings spokesman said that according to the laws of probability, this means that if you buy £1,250 of bonds, the odds are that you will win one prize a year; £5,000 on average should win four prizes a year and the maximum of £20,000 should win 16 prizes a year. But as the draws are random there are no guarantees however much is invested.



The launch of Ernie — Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment — by postmaster general Ernest Marples

The minimum purchase of Premium Bonds is now £100, after which bonds can be purchased in multiples of £10. The £100 minimum was introduced for adults in July 1989, but until February this year an exception was made for children under 16. Now they too are subject to the £100 minimum. Nearly a quarter of all holders are children. Once bonds are purchased, three months elapse before they are entered into the draw. So what do serious financial advisers think of buying Premium Bonds? Robin Bloor, director of independent intermediaries Chase de Vere says "We would not normally recommend anyone to buy them, but I would not be averse to the idea. Now that other interest rates are so low, the prize fund rate of 5 per cent tax free looks reasonably attractive." Moira Elms, personal financial planning partner at accountants Coopers & Lybrand, says: "We do have a few clients who find Premium Bonds an interesting investment. They find the chance of winning the jackpot an attraction. I think it is a very personal decision."

David Major, head of financial planning at accountants Touche Ross, says: "I have held Premium Bonds myself for over 30 years and have never won a single prize even though I should have done according to the law of averages. But I do have a wealthy client who invests the maximum and reckons that the prizes that he has won have brought him a consistently above average return of around 10 per cent."

Premium Bonds could soon face competition from the National Lottery which is likely to offer jackpot prizes of up to £1 million. National Savings says it does not see this as a direct threat, however, as the lottery will be more of a gamble. With Premium Bonds, the stake can always be regained, even without a win.

Current account holders suffer from bank mistakes

A *Which?* survey has found that bank customers are less than satisfied with the service they receive. **Sara McConnell** reports

Banks and building societies continue to offer a shoddy service to current account customers, according to *Which?*, the consumer magazine. One in five people encountered problems with a direct debit or standing order in the last year. A further one in seven had an incorrect amount taken out of their account and one in eight were wrongly charged, compared with one in ten last year.

In spite of banks' adoption of the Code of Banking Practice, which was intended to set out standards of good banking practice, "overall levels of satisfaction have not improved and mistakes are as high as before its introduction", *Which?* said. National Westminster Bank ranked bottom for overall satisfaction and for satisfaction with efficiency. The bank scored below average on dealing with mistakes, direct debits and standing orders. It was also one of the slowest at clearing cash paid into another branch of the bank and cash withdrawal by cheque at another branch. It takes up to four working days to clear cash paid into another branch or to clear cash withdrawals by cheque, compared with the same or the next working day at some banks.

NatWest said: "We are disappointed with the result and we take it seriously. We aren't going to ignore it." However, it added that it carried out quarterly surveys of 100,000 of its customers and got a satisfaction rating of more than 90 per cent. *Which?* surveyed a sample of 7,000 of whom 3,623 responded. NatWest also suggested that its policy of alerting people that they were about to be charged rather than just charging could, ironically, be part of the reason why it had done badly.

Lloyds, which scored below average on overall satisfaction, also got a worse than average rating on direct debit and standing order mistakes. Lloyds surveys 350,000 customers quarterly and says it gets a better satisfaction than *Which?* suggests. Banks with the highest overall rating and the greatest satisfaction with efficiency include, Abbey National, First Direct, the telephone side of the Midland, Girobank and the Yorkshire Bank. Above average in both categories was the Bank of Scotland. Average for overall efficiency were Barclays, Clydesdale, Co-op, Halifax, Nationwide, Royal Bank of Scotland and TSB. The Midland and Lloyds were below average, while NatWest was worst. The Co-op and the Royal Bank gave above average satisfaction with efficiency, while Barclays, Clydesdale, Halifax, Lloyds, Nationwide and TSB were average. Midland and NatWest were worst.

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THE TIMES
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Crowded pistes increase dangers of a ski crash

Naomi Caine says ski accident claims are on the increase and can be costly if personal liability injury is involved


Skiing at close quarters can lead to protracted, expensive and complex legal disputes

When David Sprite was skiing in Austria last year he collided with a Frenchman who was rushed to a local hospital and then repatriated for further medical treatment. The French skier is now permanently disabled and unable to continue his job as a company director. Mr Sprite's insurance company has only just settled a liability claim on his behalf. The claim cost them more than £500,000.

As ski slopes in major resorts become more like Tube escalators in the rush hour, collisions with other skiers are a growing hazard. About 700,000 Britons will go skiing this season, few of whom will bother to read the small print of their insurance policies. Minor injuries such as torn ligaments and dislocated thumbs make up the bulk of claims, but collision claims are on the increase.

A collision can trigger a personal liability claim and policy limits should be at least £1 million. Personal liability claims are always messy. If the guilty party has no insurance or is insured under a non-UK policy, they can be complicated, protracted and expensive. "Continental policies are generally not as sophisticated as UK policies," explains Patricia Bird, managing director of Travel and Personal Underwriters. "A collision on the ski slopes is rather like a car accident abroad and may involve the same amount of legal wrangling."

Alan Lumsden, director of the specialist brokers Douglas Cox Tyrie, agrees that personal liability cover is a top priority. But he also urges customers to check sums insured for baggage and ski equipment before they sign on the dotted line. "It is cheaper to replace a swimsuit and a pair of shorts than it is to buy a new ski jacket. Personal baggage limits should reflect the difference", he says. He also reminds skiers that while a household policy may replace old items with new, a ski policy pays just the actual value of anything lost.

> 'A collision on the ski slopes is rather like a car accident and may involve the same legal wrangling'

Most people buy ski insurance from a travel agent or tour operator. But the insurance company often pays these firms a commission of 40 per cent, which is passed on to the customer in the form of an inflated premium.

A broker may be able to negotiate a cheaper deal and wider cover. Guy Ireland, travel manager at Crispins Speers & Partners, says: "Package policies are standard policies sold en masse, and they are worded accordingly. They are unlikely to satisfy the more adventurous skiers, who get their thrills from off-piste skiing, snow boarding or even tobogganing." British Activity Holiday Insurance Services is a broking firm that arranges cover for the risker activities in its ski insurance policy, he says. The policy costs £24.50 for up to nine days in Europe.

It is important to read policy details before buying because refunds are difficult to prise out of insurers. But if a policy has already been bought and found to be lacking, it may be possible to buy extended cover.

Whoever sells a policy, it will be more expensive than a year ago. Most rates have gone up by 10 per cent with insurers blaming higher medical costs and an increase in claims. It is also true that they are desperately seeking revenue after a dismal performance over the past few years.

☐ Douglas Cox Tyrie, 081-534 9595; Crispin Speers & Partners, 071-480 5083; British Activity Holiday Insurance Services, 0892 534411.

THE TIMES
"PEPS"

Will be the subject of a comprehensive special report on Saturday January 22 1994.

For details regarding advertising opportunities please telephone either :- Simon Broch 071 782 7115 or Ross Webster 071 782 7523

BRIEFINGS

Northern Rock Building Society is reopening its instant access postal savings account paying up to 7.1 per cent gross, 5.33 per cent net on amounts of £20,000 or more invested. Balances of between £10,000 and £20,000 will earn 6.85 per cent gross, 5.14 per cent net, while balances of between £2,000 and £10,000 will earn 6.6 per cent gross, 4.95 per cent net. Accounts can only be opened by post and the minimum investment is £2,000. The account will only be open to new investors for a limited period. For more information call freephone 0500 50 5000.

☐ Lloyds Bank has cut its standard mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent to 7.74 per cent (APR 8.1 per cent), after last week's base rate cut. It also has a new range of fixed-rate mortgages at 0.5 per cent lower than the previous range. New offers include a two-year fixed rate of 6.25 per cent (APR 7.9 per cent) until January 31 1996, a five-year fixed rate of 7.25 per cent (APR 8 per cent) until January 31 1999, a 10-year fixed rate of 8.25 per cent (APR 8.5 per cent until January 31, 2004 and a 25-year rate of 9.25 per cent (APR 9.8 per cent) until January 31, 2019. They are available as endowment, pension or repayment loans and there is a fee of £250.

☐ Existing borrowers with the Bradford & Bingley building society are being offered mortgage payment protection insurance to cover their repayments if they are ill or unemployed. Before it was only available when loans were taken out. To qualify for the policy, which costs £6.95 per £100 of cover, borrowers must have worked continuously for two years. Redundancy cover starts 180 days after the policy is taken out.

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FT-SE VOLUMES

ASDA Gp	14,000	Cadbury	1,900	MEPC	1,800	Scot Power	1,700
Abbey Natl	9,400	Caradon	1,600	Marks Spr	4,300	Sears	7,900
Alld-Lyons	1,600	Carlton Cms	1,100	NFC	569	Svrn Trent	984
Anglian W	1,200	Coats Vly	2,300	NatWst Bk	4,200	Shell Trans	3,800
Argyll Gp	8,700	Cm Union	1,900	Nat Power	2,600	Siebe	1,300
Arjo Wiggn	3,700	Courtaulds	796	Nth Wst W	748	SmKl Bch	4,600
AB Foods	463	Enterpr Oil	1,600	Nthrn Fds	3,000	Smith Nph	1,800
BAA	1,200	Forte	3,700	P & O	1,200	Sthrn Elec	747
BAT Inds	4,000	GRE	2,000	Pearson	1,600	Std Chartd	1,900
BOC	877	GUS	1,100	PowerGen	2,100	Sun Allnce	1,600
BP	5,900	Gen Acc	617	Prudential	9,500	TI Gp	796
BT	8,300	Gen Elec	3,800	RMC	849	TSB	9,000
BTR	16,000	Glaxo	4,800	RTZ	3,700	Tesco	3,700
Bk of Scot	3,900	Granada	1,200	Rank Org	1,600	Thames W	1,300
Barclays	4,500	Grand Met	8,200	Reckitt Col	691	Thrn EMI	1,300
Bass	1,900	Guinness	2,700	Redland	725	Tomkins	3,100
Blue Circle	3,500	HSBC	5,400	Reed Intl	1,100	Unilever	1,600
Boots	1,600	Hanson	34,000	Rentokil	702	Utd Bisc	846
Bowater	873	ICI	1,700	Reuters	2,000	Vodafone	1,900
Brit Aero	1,900	Inchcape	1,000	Rolls Royce	3,300	Warburg (SG)	507
Brit Airwys	1,500	Kingfisher	1,800	Ryl Ins	2,500	Wellcome	2,200
Brit Gas	7,100	Ladbroke	6,000	Ryl Bk Scot	9,300	Whitbd 'A'	422
Brit Steel	3,700	Land Secs	462	Sainsbury	5,300	Wlms Hld	725
Burmah Cast	298	Legal & Gn	2,400	Schroders	455	Wolseley	371
Cable Wire	7,000	Lloyds Bk	4,900	Scot & New	2,000	Zeneca	1,500

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ...... 3703.23 (+1.12)
S&P Composite ...... 463.95 (+0.84)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge ...... 17459.35 (+0.60)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ...... 9294.35 (+56.15)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency ...... 139.0 (+0.7)

Sydney: AO ...... 2047.4 (same)

Frankfurt:
DAX ...... 2120.61 (+10.08)

FT 30 share: ...... 2448.7 (+3.1)

Brussels:
General ...... 7206.57 (+32.34)

Paris: CAC ...... 602.04 (-0.16)

Zurich: SKA Gen ...... 649.10 (+5.60)

London:
FT A All-Share ...... 1589.72 (+3.82)
FT 500 ...... 1696.46 (+3.80)
FT Gold Mines ...... 231.1 (-6.7)
FT Fixed Interest ...... 128.46 (-0.21)
FT Govt Secs ...... 105.31 (+0.17)
Bargains 36508
SEAQ Volume 749.1m
USM (Datastrm) ...... 150.32 (+0.05)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
November 22	December 3	February 24	March 7

Call options were taken out on 3/12/93: Aran Energy, Birkdale Group, Mid-States, Racal Elec, Royal Bank of Scotland, Vodafone.
Puts: Hanson Wts, Yorkshire TV Wts.
Puts & Calls: Rolls Royce, Tullow Oil.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Dec 93	3243.0	3255.0	3233.0	3247.0	12894
Previous open interest: 73640	Mar 94	3260.0	3273.0	3255.5	3266.0	2053
Three Month Sterling	Dec 93	94.65	94.71	94.64	94.67	18206
Previous open interest: 404109	Mar 94	94.85	94.92	94.85	94.89	23130
	Jun 94	94.99	95.09	94.98	95.08	17896
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 93	96.51	96.52	96.51	96.51	194
Previous open interest: 14782	Mar 94	96.40	96.40	96.36	96.37	15
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 93	93.92	93.93	93.90	93.90	14573
Previous open interest: 734616	Mar 94	94.60	94.61	94.58	94.60	19317
Long Gilt	Dec 93	117-15	118-03	117-15	118-02	4437
Previous open interest: 141561	Mar 94	116-23	117-11	116-21	117-08	55824
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 93	117.17	117.19	117.04	117.14	189
	Mar 94	116.09	116.11	115.81	115.98	1527
German Gov Bd Bobl	Dec 93	102.80	102.83	102.72	102.83	3126
Previous open interest: 19171	Mar 94	103.00	103.10	103.00	103.09	1358
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 93	99.73	100.00	99.65	99.95	56634
Previous open interest: 164803	Mar 94	99.79	100.08	99.71	100.00	82374
Three month ECU	Dec 93	93.43	93.45	93.41	93.43	1493
Previous open interest: 36259	Mar 94	94.12	94.14	94.10	94.13	625
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 93	95.66	95.68	95.64	95.67	2660
Previous open interest: 57133	Mar 94	96.28	96.28	96.24	96.28	2206
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 94	110.90	113.45	110.61	113.35	52302
Previous open interest: 79972	Jun 94	110.94	112.00	110.94	113.50	4

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 82.1 (day's range 82.0-82.1).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 3	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.8601-2.8745	2.8710-2.8745	⅛-¼ds	¼-⅜ds
Brussels	53.82-53.98	53.87-53.98	10-14ds	24-30ds
Copenhagen	10.0720-10.1040	10.0890-10.1040	⅜-⅛ds	5¼-7ds
Dublin	1.0525-1.0562	1.0528-1.0559	9-12ds	23-29ds
Frankfurt	2.5567-2.5640	2.5607-2.5640	⅛-⅜ds	½-⅜ds
Lisbon	261.28-263.07	261.28-261.91	106-182ds	340-354ds
Madrid	210.27-211.73	211.42-211.73	73-85ds	191-208ds
Milan	2547.00-2573.40	2547.0-2551.00	7-9ds	23-25ds
Montreal	1.9730-1.9806	1.9777-1.9806	0.23-0.18pr	0.43-0.34pr
New York	1.4845-1.4898	1.4888-1.4898	0.24-0.22pr	0.67-0.65pr
Oslo	11.0680-11.1180	11.1020-11.1180	⅜-½ds	⅜-¾ds
Paris	8.7660-8.8170	8.7980-8.8120	⅞-1¼ds	2½-3ds
Stockholm	12.4777-12.5540	12.5290-12.5540	1⅞-3¼ds	5⅞-6⅞ds
Tokyo	161.31-162.04	161.31-161.57	½-⅜pr	1½-1¼pr
Vienna	17.97-18.09	17.99-18.03	½-1½ds	1⅞-3½ds
Zurich	2.2153-2.2261	2.2153-2.2184	¼pr-par	⅜-⅛pr

Source: Extel
Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.4853-1.4879
Australia dollar	2.2076-2.2125
Bahrain dinar	0.553-0.565
Brazil cruzeiro*	360.68-362.13
Cyprus pound	0.765-0.775
Finland marka	8.562-8.678
Greece drachma	363.5-370.5
Hong Kong dollar	11.4400-11.4493
India rupee	46.10-47.06
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4385-0.4485
Malaysia ringgit	3.7994-3.8036
Mexico peso	4.55-4.65
New Zealand dollar	2.7032-2.7100
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.502-5.628
Singapore dollar	2.3727-2.3759
S Africa rand (fin)	6.5968-6.6760
S Africa rand (com)	5.0334-5.0491
U A E dirham	5.388-5.512

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.4905-1.4927
Austria	12.14-12.15
Belgium (Com)	36.22-36.26
Canada	1.3276-1.3286
Denmark	6.8053-6.8103
France	5.921-5.926
Germany	1.7235-1.7245
Hong Kong	7.724-7.725
Ireland	1.4061-1.4091
Italy	1720.2-1721.7
Japan	108.86-108.96
Malaysia	2.556-2.557
Netherlands	1.9324-1.9334
Norway	7.487-7.492
Portugal	176.25-176.55
Singapore	1.602-1.603
Spain	141.95-105.05
Sweden	8.4322-8.4422
Switzerland	1.495-1.496

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5 Low 4½ Week fixed: 5½
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 5⅛; 3 mth 5. Sell: 2 mth 5; 3 mth: 4⅞.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-4⅞	unq	
Sterling Money Rates:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛
Interbank:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛

Overnight: open 5, close 3.

Local Authority Deps:	5⅛	n/a	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Sterling CDs:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛
Dollar CDs:	3.40-3.36	n/a	3.37-3.33	3.43-3.40	3.70-3.67
Building Society CDs:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛

TREASURY BILLS: Applicns: £773m allotted: £200m: Bids: £98.79% received: 20%: Last week: £98.795% received: 90%; Avge rate: £4.8142% last wk £4.8127%: Next week: £200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	3-2½	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
Deutschemark:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	5⅞-5⅞	7-6
French Franc:	6⅞-6⅛	6⅞-6⅛	6⅞-6⅞	6⅞-6⅞	7⅛-6⅞
Swiss Franc:	4⅞-4⅛	4⅞-4⅛	4⅛-4⅛	4⅛-3⅞	5-4
Yen:	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	1⅞-1⅞	1⅞-1⅞	2⅛-1⅛

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $373.00-373.40 Close: $375.60-376.10 High: $377.00-377.50
Low: $372.10-372.60 Krugerrand: $375.00-377.00 (£250.50-252.50)
Sovereigns: Old $88.00-90.00 (£58.50-60.50) New $88.00-90.00 (£58.50-60.50)
Platinum: $371.05 (£250.05) Silver: $4.795 (£3.205) Palladium: $123.00 (£82.90)

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Lyon	600	23½	38	47½	19	28½	39½
(*611½)	650	5	16	25½	52½	58	70
Argyll	240	21	28½	32½	7	11	17½
(*255)	260	9½	18	22½	18½	21	28½
ASDA	50	5	6½	8½	3½	5½	6½
(*51)	60	1½	3½	5	10½	12½	13½
Boots	500	57	68	76	4	8½	16½
(*549)	550	21	35	44½	17½	27	36½
Br Airways	420	26	38½	46½	13	23	30½
(*429½)	460	9½	18	28½	38½	44½	53
BP	330	16	24	29	10	17	22½
(*333)	360	4½	10	16	31	34	39½
Br Steel	120	9½	14½	19	5½	9	12
(*124)	130	5½	9½	14	9	14	17
C & W	475	29½	44½	55	14	24	30
(*489½)	500	17½	32½	42	27	37	44
CU	600	35	48½	99	10½	19½	25½
(*624½)	650	11½	23	33½	33	48	52½
ICI	750	35	47	58	20½	39½	49
(*760½)	800	13	23½	35	50½	71½	79
Kingfishr	700	47	64	74	11½	22½	33½
(*729½)	750	19	36	47½	36	45½	58
Land Sec	750	26½	44	53	16½	25	37½
(*755½)	800	7	20½	29½	50	54½	67½
M & S	420	41	50	55	4½	7½	14
(*454)	460	14	25	31	19	23½	30
Nat West	550	54	60½	69	5	15½	22½
(*593½)	600	21½	30	41	23	38½	46
Sainsbury	390	30	42	48½	8	14½	22½
(*409½)	430	12½	25½	32	22	29	37
Shell	650	60	65	72½	3½	13	19
(*699)	700	23	31½	41½	18	34	40
Smkl Bch	390	26½	37½	48	14	24½	31
(*397½)	420	13½	25	35½	32	41	48
Storehse	220	9	17½	22	9½	13½	17½
(*222)	240	3	9	13½	24	26½	29½
Trafalgar	90	9	13	15	4½	6	8½
(*96½)	100	4	8	10½	10½	11½	14
Unilever	1150	48	68	87½	21	43	54½
(*1168)	1200	23	42½	61½	48	69½	78½
Zeneca	750	60½	72½	83½	9½	27	37½
(*794)	800	28½	43	56½	29½	52½	62½
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	25½	32½	42	16	22	27½
(*433½)	460	7½	14½	24	41½	46	50½
Ladbroke	140	17	21½	24½	12	18½	21
(*144)	160	8½	13	16	24	31	33
Utd Bisc	330	22½	26	30½	13½	24	27
(*333½)	360	9½	13½	18	32½	44	48

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	950	39	62½	78½	22	34	46
(*958½)	1000	16½	34½	54	51½	61½	72
Thames W	500	55	66	72½	3	8½	17
(*546½)	550	19	32½	40	17	28½	40½
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	500	39	46½	52	14½	25	31½
(*520½)	550	14½	21	27½	39	54½	60
BTR	330	28½	31½	36	8	15	18½
(*345½)	360	12½	16	22½	23½	31½	34
Br Aero	390	42½	52	64½	20½	30	37½
(*409)	420	26½	39	50	35	46	54
Br Telcm	460	22½	30½	38½	14	17½	24½
(*471½)	500	6½	13	20½	40	42½	47½
Cadbury	453	30	34½	—	10½	21	—
(*467)	493	11½	15	—	32½	45	—
Guinness	460	28½	38½	44½	16½	27	32
(*469)	500	11	20½	26	38½	51	56
GEC	300	28½	34½	38½	4½	7½	12½
(*323½)	330	11	17	22	18	21½	27½
Hanson	260	13½	17	20½	9½	13½	17½
(*264½)	280	5	9	12½	22	26	30
LASMO	110	15½	18	21½	8½	13	15
(*114)	120	10	13	16½	14½	18	20
Lucas	160	24½	28	31½	5	8	11
(*177½)	180	11½	15½	20½	14	17½	20½
Pilkingtn	160	14	18	22½	10½	14	18
(*165½)	180	5½	9½	14	23	26	30
Prudential	360	17½	22½	28	14½	23	26
(*360)	390	6	11	15½	34½	43	45
Redland	550	45	53½	59½	15½	32½	37
(*572)	600	19	28½	36	41½	60½	65
Royal Ins	288	33	—	—	6	—	—
(*311)	317	16	—	—	19	—	—
Tesco	180	21	25½	26½	6	11½	13
(*192)	200	9	14½	16½	15½	23	24
Vodafone	550	42	59½	72	30	41½	52
(*557½)	600	21½	37	50½	60½	70	80
Williams	330	24½	30	34	9½	17½	21½
(*340½)	360	9½	15	20½	26½	35	38½

FT-SE INDEX (*3230½)

	3100	3150	3200	3250	3300	3350
Calls						
Dec	153	107	65	32	12	4
Jan	177	137	101	71	48	30
Feb	193	156	121	91	68	47
Mar	211	173	140	109	85	63
Jun	246	—	183	—	131	—
Puts						
Dec	4	8	16	38	72	122
Jan	22	33	47	69	97	132
Feb	35	47	63	83	111	143
Mar	48	60	77	96	123	154
Jun	77	—	112	—	160	—

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Abby Nat.	420	35½	45½	50	2	11	15
(*451½)	460	7	21½	27½	14	29½	34
Amstrad	40	4	7	8½	1½	4	5
(*42½)	45	1½	4½	6	4½	6½	8
Barclays	600	19½	39	47½	11	28	35
(*608)	650	3	17	26	45½	58½	64½
Blue Circ	330	14	26½	33	7	16½	25½
(*336)	360	3	13	19½	27½	34	43½
Br Gas	330	19½	30	35	3	8½	14½
(*346½)	360	3½	17½	18	16½	23½	30½
Dixons	280	11½	23	30	8	19½	24½
(*282)	300	3½	14½	21	21½	31½	36
Forte	240	11	19½	25	5½	14	19½
(*244)	260	3	11½	16	19½	26	31½
Hillsdwn	140	12½	18½	21½	2	7	12½
(*149)	160	2	8½	11½	14	18	24½
Lonrho	130	7½	14½	18	4	11	13½
(*135)	140	3	9½	13½	9½	16½	19
Sears	120	8	14	16	1½	4½	6½
(*127)	130	3	8	10½	5½	9	12
Thm Emi	950	33	59	77	10½	36½	45
(*964½)	1000	8½	35	52½	38	65	71½
Tomkins	220	12½	19½	25	3	9	12½
(*229)	240	3	11	15	14	21	24
TSB	220	18½	25	28½	2	7	10½
(*236)	240	5	12	17	8½	16½	19½
Wellcome	650	42	69	84	8	30½	42
(*680)	700	13½	43	59½	32½	55	66
	Series	Dec	Apr	Jul	Dec	Apr	Jul
Glaxo	650	52½	80	98	6	33½	44
(*693½)	700	18	53	72½	24½	57	68½
HSBC	750	22½	54½	66	16½	50	59½
(*755)	800	5	31½	44½	51	80½	89½
Reuter	1700	52	118½	152	24½	78½	101½
(*1726)	1750	25	91	125	49½	104	125
	Series	Dec	Feb	May	Dec	Feb	May
R-Royce	156	20	24½	—	1	5	—
(*173½)	176	5½	13	—	7½	13	—
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Fisons	140	7½	17	20½	5	12	19½
(*142)	160	1½	9	12½	20½	34½	33
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Eastrn Elc	600	41	51½	61	13½	19½	31
(*625½)	650	15	25½	35	41	46½	57
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Natl Pwr	390	31½	42	48½	1½	7½	13
(*418)	420	9½	23½	30	9½	19	26
Scot Pwr	390	31½	38½	46	1½	8	12
(*418)	420	7½	19½	28½	9½	20½	25

December 3, 1993 Tot: 41792 Call: 21626 Put: 20166 FT-SE Call: 6834 Put: 7272
*Underlying security price.

COMMODITIES

GNI REPORT: Coffee is still stuck in a narrow trading range, but early 1993/4 export figures are a little constructive. ICO member exports in October were 20% down on year ago levels, and in particular showed a fall in Colombian shipments. While some of this was due to the first month of producer retention scheme, it is unlikely that Brazil's retention programme will impact on the figures until early next year.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	1000-998	Mar	1032-1030
Mar	1061-1060	May	1037-1036
May	1058-1057	Jul	1042-1040
Jul	1056-1055	Sep	1050-1047
Sep	1055-1054		
Dec	1031-1030		Volume: 5920

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1260-1259	Sep	1214-1208
Mar	1245-1242	Nov	1209-1200
May	1222-1220	Jan	1208-1200
Jul	1215-1213		Volume: 2794

NO.7 PREMIUM RAW SUGAR ($ 6.00pm)

		Oct	11.13-11.25
Spot: 271.6		Jan	unq
Mar	10.93-11.00	Mar	unq
May	11.10-11.39	May	unq
Jul	11.28-11.39		Volume: 63

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	278.0-77.1
Spot: 289.5		Dec	276.0-75.1
Mar	285.9-85.0	Mar	278.0-76.3
May	286.0-85.1	May	281.0-77.3
Aug	290.2-89.0		Volume: 753

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 3

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	71.39	89.65	120.17
(+/-)	+0.42	-1.66	-0.54
Eng/Wales:	71.39	89.98	120.25
(+/-)	+0.42	-1.05	-0.65
(%)	+7.9	-27.7	-53.7
Scotland:	n/a	87.16	117.48
(+/-)	n/a	-5.96	-0.89
(%)	n/a	-38.7	-85.5

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Live Pig (£/kg)

	Open	Close		Open	Close
Aug	unq	--	Mar	unq	--
Sep	unq	--			Volume: 0

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)

Jan	100.45
Mar	101.80
May	103.50
Jun	105.00
Sep	90.75
	Volume: 36

BARLEY (close £/t)

Jan	104.50
Mar	105.75
May	107.50
Sep	92.75
Nov	95.00
	Volume: 38

HI-PRO SOYA (close £/t)

Aug	unq
Oct	--
Dec	--
Feb	--
Apr	--
	Volume: 0

POTATO

(£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	124.0
Apr	91.0	90.9
May	109.0	110.3
		Volume: 55

RUBBER
No 1 RSS Cif (p/k)
Jan 61.25-61.75

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm): Levels continued to erode as surplus availabilities continued to outweigh any demand.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	14.05	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Dec)	14.10	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Jan)	14.00	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	14.95	-0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	15.20	-0.25

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas .15	150 (-2)	152 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	148 (-1)	149 (-1)
Non EEC IH Jan	153 (-2)	155 (-2)
Non EEC IH Feb	152 (-2)	154 (-2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	55 (-1)	57 (-1)
Naphtha	136 (-4)	138 (-4)

IPE FUTURES GNI Ltd

GAS OIL

Dec	149.25-49.50	Mar	146.50 SLR
Jan	147.25-47.50	Apr	145.25-45.50
Feb	147.00 SLR	May	145.25-46.50
			Vol: 26750

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	13.94-13.96	Apr	14.50-14.57
Feb	14.10-14.11	May	14.68-14.75
Mar	14.30-14.33		Vol: 34501

UNLEADED GASOLINE

Dec	143.00-49.00	Mar	156.00 SLR
Jan	n/a	Apr	168.75 SLR
Feb	153.00 SLR		Vol: 26

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 93	1265	1265	1265
Jan 94	1270	1260	1260
Feb 94	—	—	1270
Apr 94	1295	1295	1293

Vol: 25 lots. Open int'st: 2365 Index 1253 same

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1658.5-1659.0	1682.0-1682.5	1793350
Lead ($/tonne)	433.00-433.50	446.00-446.50	171050
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	939.50-940.00	957.00-957.50	299150
Tin ($/tonne)	4720.0-4725.0	4770.0-4780.0	14556
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1054.5-1055.0	1075.0-1075.5	1105500
Nickel ($/tonne)	4722.0-4723.0	4777.0-4778.0	43230

Insurers split on new tax

Some groups plan to pass on the levy in higher premiums to make a political point, writes **Liz Dolan**

The government's decision to impose a 3 per cent tax on general insurance premiums sent insurers scurrying into several different camps this week.

The Prudential was first off the mark. Scarcely had news of the tax left the Chancellor's lips than the Pru publicly stated its intention to protect customers by absorbing the full cost of the tax itself. Competitors muttered that, as the majority of the Pru's business was in tax-free life and pensions, such a concession could be achieved relatively cheaply.

Pearl, with a similar business mix, followed the Pru's lead. But Legal & General, which also majors in life and pensions, decided there was a political point to be made and leapt smartly into the "policyholders must pay" camp.

Its customers will be picking up the tax tab in full, it says, adding that the government is to blame for penalising people for being prudent.

Roy Randall, of Royal Insurance, agrees. "Sweeping the tax under the carpet" is simply to play into the hands of the government, he says. "We are passing it on with regret. The amount will be identified on the renewal document as a tax to be collected separately on behalf of the government. Politically, we must not let the government get away with it. As sure as eggs is eggs, it's going to increase. If we don't make a fuss now, it will be much more difficult to lobby later on." Ken McKay, of Pearl, says: "If the wedge gets thicker, we'll have to look at it again. But, for now, we are able to absorb the tax because of cost efficiencies."

John Morgan, of Legal and General, obviously feels more sanguine about the hefty premium rises suffered by policyholders over the same period. He says: "Margins are so thin on general insurance business that any additional costs have to be passed on to someone. Shareholders have suffered enough already over the past few years."

Mr Morgan went on to point out that, with continental insurance taxes of up to 30 per cent, or more, the initial 3 per cent level in the UK was sure to rise later on.

Other insurers made a dash for the fence and sat down firmly to wait for the smoke to clear. "No decision has yet been made," says a cautious Ray Morley, of Commercial Union, keeping his head well below the political parapet. "The tax doesn't come into force until next October. You're asking us to predict how things will look in a year's time. If you can tell me how many claims we're going to get, and what will happen to profits, I might be able to help you."

Direct Line says simply: "We are considering what to do, but we feel that this means it is even more important to shop around. We will simply continue to provide competitive premiums."

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c:						
Typical	0.38	0.38	0.30	1,000	7 day	——
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	3.26	3.26	2.63	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
"	3.24	3.24	2.59	5,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	2.76	2.76	2.21	10,000-no max	1 mth	Local Brnch
"	3.00	3.00	2.40	10,000-no max	6 mth	Local Brnch
Midland	3.28	3.28	2.63	10,000-100,000	1 mth	0742 528655
"	3.37	3.37	2.70	10,000-100,000	3 mth	0742 528655
NatWest	3.00	3.00	2.40	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
"	2.91	2.91	2.33	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	2.88	2.93	2.34	2,500‡	none	031-442 77 7
Barclays Prime a/c	1.69	1.69	1.35	2,500‡	none	0604 252891
Co-operative Ultra	0.19	0.19	0.15	500‡	none	071 626 6543
Citibank	3.75	3.82	3.06	2,000‡	none	0800 555864
Lloyds HICA	0.75	0.75	0.60	1,000	none	0272 433372
Midland HICA	1.50	1.50	1.12	2,000‡	none	0742 528655
NatWest Special Reserve	1.13	1.13	0.90	500‡	none	0800 200 400
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	1.50	1.51	1.21	2,000‡	none	031-556 8555
TSB Bank Inist Chque Acct	1.88	1.88	1.50	2,000‡	none	071-800 6020
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	0.75	0.75	0.60	50+	none	——
Best buy — largest socs:						
Bristol & West	5.33	5.33	4.26	50,000 min	Postal	——
Birmingham Mid	5.36	5.36	4.29	100,000 min	Postal	——
Bristol & West	4.73	4.73	3.78	50,000 min	30 day	——
Woolwich	5.63	5.63	4.50	50,000 min	90 day	——
Portman	4.50	4.50	3.60	500 min	1 year	——
Best buy — all socs:						
Northern Rock	5.33	5.33	4.26	20,000 min	Postal	——
North of England	5.44	5.44	4.35	25,000 min	30 day	——
St Pancras	5.59	5.59	4.47	25,000 min	60 day	——
Greenwich	5.81	5.81	4.65	50,000 min	90 day	——
Newcastle	5.44	5.44	4.35	5,000 min	1 year	——

Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneyline - call 071 404 5768 for further details

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c†	3.75	2.81	2.25	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c*	6.25	4.69	3.75	20-24,999	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	7.00	5.25	4.20	2,000-24,999	3 mth	0253 766151
6th Index Linkd†	3.25	3.25	3.25	100-10,000	8 day	091-386 4900
40th Issue Cert†	5.75	5.75	5.75	100-10,000	8 day	091-386 4900
Yearly Plan†	5.75	5.75	5.75	20-400/mth	14 day	091-386 4900
Children's Bond	7.85	7.85	7.85	25-1,000		
Gen Ext Rate†	3.75	3.75	3.75			
Capital Bond*	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	6 days	041-649-4555
1st Option Bond*	4.75	4.75	3.80	1,000-250,000		
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Consolidated Lf	4.30	4.30	3.66	2,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Consolidated Lf	4.75	4.75	4.04	2,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Prosperity Life	5.23	5.23	4.45	25,000 min	3 yrs	Vere
Financial Ass	5.65	5.65	4.80	50,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5768
Liberty Life	6.40	6.40	5.44	50,000 min	5 yrs	for details

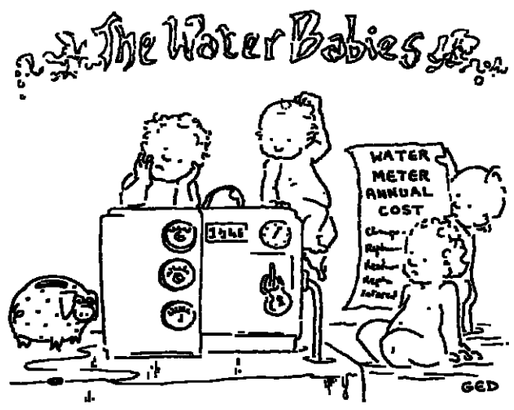
RATES		**HOLIDAY RATES**	£ buys
RPI (Oct 92-93)	+1.4%	Spanish Pesetas:	203.00
Bank Base Rate	5.5%	French Francs:	8.62
Personal Loan	28%	Greek Drachma:	360.00
Credit Card	25 - 27%	Italian Lire:	2490.00

TESSA	CAR (%)	£3,000 val 1 year on	Transfer penalty	Minimum investmt	Telephone number
Hinckley & Rgby	8.05	£3,241.50	90 days loss	£25	0455 251234
St Pancras	8.00	£3,240.00	£25+30days notice	£10	071 7942331
Dunfermline	7.90	£3,237.00	1mths notice+loss	£3,000	0383 721621
Dudley	7.87	£3,236.10	Reverts share A/C	£10	0384 231414
Shepshed	7.80	£3,234.00	£25	£1	0509 503302

† 2.5% for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less. ‡ Additional holdings up to £50,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates. †Tax free. *Interest taxable paid gross ‡Higher rates for larger sums. ◆Guaranteed over the rate of inflation. ◆ 0.3% net bonus for amounts £20,000+

Compiled by LUCY DUPUIS

LETTERS



The real cost of water metering

From Mr F. Paul Taylor

Sir, The snag with water metering is that everyone will have to pay more. Meters are expensive to buy, install, read, maintain and replace.

They are also unreliable: one in five of those used in the Water Services Association trials malfunctioned. The cost of all this is many times the cost of pumping and treating the water saved.

The additional cost to the average household of having a meter can be broken down as follows:

Annual interest charge on cost of meter, £14 per annum; cost of replacing meter every ten years, £20 pa; cost of replacing faulty meters, £40 pa; cost of reading meter and billing consumer (WSA figure), £19 pa. Total average cost per household: £93 pa.

The cost will be spread evenly over the consumers and few, if any, of even the smallest users will benefit. Nationwide the capital cost of fitting meters in all households would be about £4 billion and the extra annual cost about £2 billion.

Partial metering is grossly unfair. One household would pay for every drop of water used. In another a neighbour could water his garden, wash his car and spray his children without spending an extra penny. This would be invidious.

Water metering is a non-starter and should be abandoned forthwith.

Yours faithfully,
F. PAUL TAYLOR,
7 Kingsway,
Frodsham,
Cheshire.

Plea for real time record of card transactions

From Mr Stephen Schick

Sir, Most automated credit card transaction slips detail the time as well as the date of the transaction.

However, in my experience the time shown on the slips often varies widely from the actual time; recently I had a slip on which the time printed was ten hours out. Could not the card processing companies, in the interest of accuracy, attend to this simple matter?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SCHICK,
Garden Flat,
34 Tite Street,
SW3.

Late tax refunds are commonplace

From M. J. Friedman

Sir, The delay experienced by Mrs Daunt in obtaining her child's income tax repayment (Weekend Money Letters, November 6) mirrors complaints that I have made regularly to the Inland Revenue in the last few months.

In the previous income-tax year, repayments were frequently made within two or three weeks of filing the claim but this year delays of up to three months are common.

The Inland Revenue have reorganised the way in which they deal with these repayments. They are now dealt with centrally rather than locally. The move was ill-planned and doubtless the offices are under-staffed.

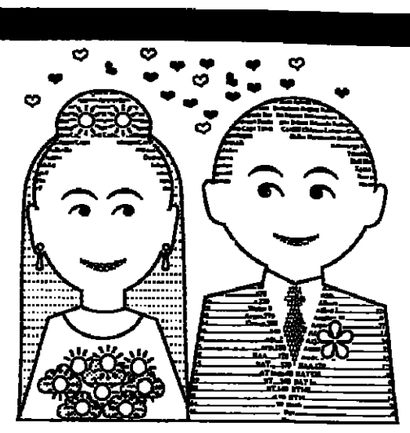
I have tried on innumerable occasions to speed up repayments by writing and telephoning but the former elicits little and the latter requires patience as all lines seem to be forever engaged. On making contact, one is assured that claims are treated in order and that every effort is being made.

I have written strenuously to the senior officials to point out that the tax being repaid is the taxpayer's own money and is not a gratuitous bounty handed out by the government. Unbelievably, the response I have received is that the Revenue is working to a three-month "tax back" campaign — suggesting that so long as they make the repayment within three months this is regarded as acceptable.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. FRIEDMAN,
Sagar Croudson,
Chartered Accountants,
Elizabeth House,
Queen Street, Leeds.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of *The Times* can be sent by fax to 071-782 5112. Please include a daytime telephone number.

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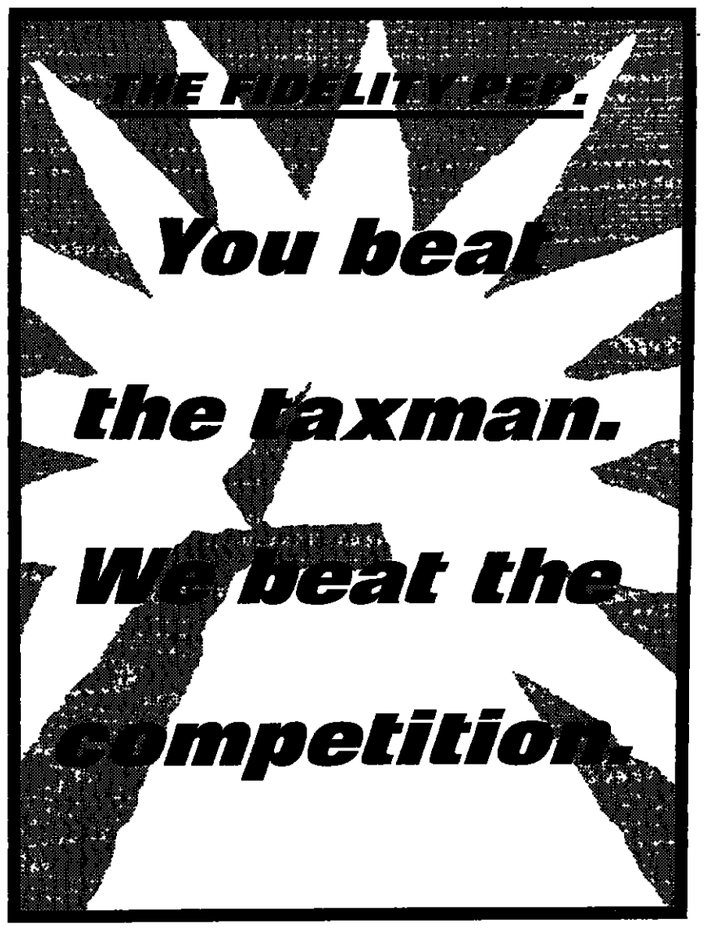
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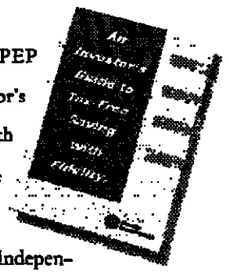
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New Asia 205.80 222.80 + 5.30 0.35
Japan Growth 115.10 122.00 + 1.60 ...
Jap Smlr Co 470.60 500.60 + 2.10 ...
Nth Amer 240.80 255.40 + 1.40 0.95
Shtfld Asia Pac Mt 114.40 123.40 + 2.30 0.51
UK Inc & Gnth 216.00 230.70† + 8.30 3.51

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ 0242 577 585
UK Balanced Inc 136.70 145.40† + 4.60 2.37
UK High Inc Inc 151.20 160.80† + 7.60 5.51
UK Pref & Fl Inc 63.51 67.53† - 0.55 6.54
Envronmntl Opps 78.57 83.58 + 3.05 1.47

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
37 Hanover(tel Terrace, Edinburgh
0345 090 526
American 119.40 126.90† - 0.60 0.39
Convertibles 33.17 34.62 - 0.02 7.93
Equity Income 134.10 142.50 + 2.70 3.51
EuroFund 42.50 44.98 + 0.38 0.69
Financial 49.05 52.12 + 1.00 2.32
Growth & Inc 235.30 250.00 + 4.80 3.00
High Dist 158.40 168.30† + 3.80 4.46
International 365.60 388.50 + 7.50 0.84
Intnl Income 94.39 100.70 + 1.11 2.58
Latin American 41.18 43.75 + 1.01 0.29
Pacific 80.10 85.11 + 1.50 0.38
Tokyo 198.60 210.70 + 5.20 ...
UK Smaller Cos 221.30 235.10 + 5.30 1.00

ELCON LTD
Central Ct, Knoll Rise, Orpington BR6 0JA
0689 70258
Elcon Trust 205.50 219.70 + 2.50 ...

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
48 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU
071 373 7266
Endurance Fd 192.70 205.00 + 3.70 0.45

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7QN
0296 431 488
European 72.13 75.93 + 0.89 1.73
Far Eastern 301.40 317.35 + 4.02 1.48
High Income 132.40 139.37† + 3.56 4.43
Intl Growth 111.14 116.99 + 1.18 1.15
North American 115.28 121.35 + 0.31 0.93
Pension 104.89 123.04 + 1.95 3.05
Property 71.34 75.73 + 1.26 1.98
Special Sits 86.88 91.45 + 2.11 1.96
Tst of Inv Trsts 175.39 184.62 + 5.22 2.03

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966
Smaller Cos Inc 187.95 195.78 + 6.41 1.76
Smaller Cos Acc 325.29 338.75 +11.11 1.76
Recovery 46.07 47.99 + 2.33 2.27

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
23 Cathedral Yard, Exeter EX1 1HB
0392 412 144
Balanced 118.81 126.29† + 2.75 4.05
Capital Growth 77.93 83.58 + 4.74 ...
Fd of Inv Trsts 41.87 44.52 + 1.04 0.25
High Income 48.57 51.81 + 1.63 8.55
Warrant 36.53 61.45 + 2.23 ...
Zero Preference 37.32 39.50† + 0.56 ...

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
36 West Street, Brighton BN1 2RE 0273 220 787
Family Asset Tst 72.96 77.81 + 2.52 2.79
Family Income Tst 80.85 84.09† + 1.71 6.20
Family Trust 78.62 83.64 - 0.57 1.66
United Countries 238.30 253.50† + 5.70 3.69

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ
Dealing: Private Clients: 0800 414 181
Broker Dealings: 0800 414 131
Cash Fund
Cash Fund 100.00 100.00 .... 5.00
Stabilimer Growth Range
Controlled Risk UK 25.13 26.47 .... 3.18
-do- Europe 24.65 25.97 - 0.34 4.97
-do- America 23.93 25.21 - 0.11 0.56
-do- Japan 25.36 25.90 + 0.01 0.80
Bond Funds
Gilt & Fxd Int 31.52 31.81 + 0.39 6.31
Intl Bond 32.31 33.73 + 0.09 5.00
Insurance Funds
High Income 27.83 29.28† + 0.53 4.92
Income Plus 121.90 129.70† + 5.40 3.42
Inter Eq Inc 47.34 50.44 + 0.18 0.73
European Income 40.62 43.19 + 0.26 2.73
Far East Inc 63.97 68.52† + 1.75 2.45
Global Convertible 23.73 25.32 + 0.46 2.34
Equity Funds
ASEAN 63.78 68.05 + 3.42 ...
American 230.70 244.60† + 2.90 ...
Amer Spec Sits 107.30 114.50 + 1.40 ...
Japan Smaller Cos 36.95 39.42 + 0.60 ...
European 147.20 156.60 + 0.40 ...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %

European Opps 54.78 58.25 + 0.07 ...
UK Growth 83.24 88.51 + 4.03 ...
Growth & Inc 153.90 163.70† + 3.60 3.04
Intl PEP 33.98 36.13 + 1.03 ...
Japan Spec Sits 82.07 87.65 + 2.81 ...
Japan 172.10 184.50 + 5.50 ...
Managed Intl 251.10 268.20 + 4.70 ...
Money-builder 48.23 51.45 + 0.98 ...
Recovery 40.25 42.80 + 0.94 ...
South E Asia 153.30 163.60 + 2.40 ...
Special Sits 476.80 507.00 +11.30 ...
Specialist Funds
UK Index 110.90 114.80 + 4.30 3.24
UK Income Index 81.48 85.79 + 3.94 4.43
Europe Index 102.60 108.00 + 0.50 0.90
-do- Income Index 94.80 100.00 + 0.30 1.05
Japan Index 119.00 125.40 + 1.70 0.42
-do- Income Index 106.10 111.70 + 4.50 1.46
Cash Accum Units 103.61 103.61 + 0.08 5.00

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
31 Sun Street, London EC2A 2BQ 071 377 9262
Balanced 134.10 136.80 + 3.20 2.22
Inc Platio 87.58 89.32† + 2.13 2.58
Cap Platio 145.00 147.80 + 3.80 0.60
General Opps 126.40 128.30† + 3.00 3.54
Growth Inc 31.40 31.71† + 1.47 2.15
Private Portfolio 413.20 418.60 + 6.60 1.46

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Admin. PO Box 2000, Brentwood, Essex
CM13 1ER Enq: 071 454 1434 Dlg: 0277 261 919
Hypo Foreign & Colonial
European 105.10 111.10 - 1.10 0.44
Far Eastern 160.00 169.80 + 4.30 ...
High Income 23.54 25.07† - 0.05 10.00
Ocean Income 98.55 105.50† - 0.30 2.84
UK Growth 108.30 116.00 + 2.40 1.00
UK Income 107.20 114.80† + 2.60 5.33
US Smaller Cos 289.40 309.50 + 1.80 ...

FOSTER & BRAITHEWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
5 White Hart Yard, London SE1 1NX
071 407 5966
American Growth 55.15 58.92 + 0.66 ...
(Accum Units) 55.15 58.92 + 0.66 ...
Amer Smlr Cos 483.80 517.30 +10.30 ...
(Accum Units) 494.30 528.60 +11.10 ...
Cont Smlr Cos 298.60 317.60 + 6.80 1.70
(Accum Units) 420.20 446.90 + 9.50 1.70
Cont Smlr Cos 52.72 56.56 + 0.39 0.82
(Accum Units) 55.11 59.12 + 0.40 0.82
Convertibles 122.50 141.00 + 0.60 5.31
(Accum Units) 251.70 267.70 + 2.90 5.21
Emerging Markets 75.12 80.29† + 2.23 ...
(Accum Units) 75.20 80.34† + 2.32 ...
European 109.10 116.30 + 1.70 0.42
(Accum Units) 113.20 118.30 + 1.70 0.42
Extra Income 326.70 347.50 + 9.30 3.55
(Accum Units) 467.80 497.60 +13.10 3.55
Financial 123.00 131.70 + 2.10 0.49
(Accum Units) 128.20 137.20 + 2.20 0.49
Gilt Trust 70.62 72.81 + 1.90 5.80
(Accum Units) 93.49 96.40 + 2.52 5.00
Health Fund Inc 136.40 145.70 + 2.30 ...
(Accum Units) 136.40 145.70 + 2.30 ...
Income & Growth 194.10 206.40 + 6.70 3.53
(Accum Units) 281.30 299.20† + 9.70 3.53
Intl Growth 356.40 380.70 + 7.80 ...
(Accum Units) 393.70 422.70 + 8.60 ...
Japan & Gen 177.00 189.00 + 4.00 ...
(Accum Units) 178.80 191.00 + 3.40 ...
Managed Port Inc 101.50 106.80 + 2.30 0.72
(Accum Units) 106.60 112.20 + 2.30 0.72
Monthly Income 165.30 175.80 + 5.20 3.67
Quality Income 94.86 98.35 + 1.80 3.67
(Accum Units) 96.10 99.67 + 1.88 5.28
Recovery 322.00 344.30 + 4.80 0.37
(Accum Units) 378.30 404.50 + 5.70 0.37
UK Growth 51.38 54.85 + 2.03 2.57
(Accum Units) 51.38 54.85 + 2.03 2.57

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Castle Street, Saffron Walden
Dealing: 0722 411 411 Admin: 0722 421 422
FP Equity Dist 394.77 409.30† +17.73 2.41
-do- Accum 794.08 844.77† +36.58 2.41
FP Euro Gth Dist 121.46 129.30 + 1.31 0.67
-do- Accum 121.46 129.30 + 1.31 0.67
FP Fixed Int Dist 143.49 151.78† - 0.95 5.48
-do- Accum 248.55 262.90† - 4.80 5.48
FP Intl Gth Dist 86.18 91.68† + 1.53 0.61
-do- Accum 89.60 95.32† + 1.74 0.61
FP Nth Amer Dist 145.63 154.17† + 1.39 0.52
-do- Accum 202.27 214.27† + 1.47 0.54
FP Pac Basin Dist 288.14 306.53 + 7.76 0.01
-do- Accum 293.64 312.38 + 7.91 0.01
Stewardship Dist 328.45 349.42† +10.07 1.62
-do- Accum 414.68 441.28† +12.71 1.62
Sovereign Inc Dist 70.74 75.26† + 1.68 3.23
-do- Accum 88.72 94.38† + 2.11 3.23
N Am Smlr Cos Dist 102.13 108.66 + 0.43 ...
-do- Accum 108.04 114.94 + 0.46 ...

GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
PO Box 251, York YO1 1LA 0345 581 186/7
GANDA 236.40 250.00† + 10.00 1.96
Cash 49.43 50.17† + 0.03 4.35
Growth Portfolio 80.83 85.68 + 2.42 0.35
Income Portfolio 69.25 73.23† + 2.68 3.40

GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Floor, 125 London Wall,
London EC2Y 5AS 071 728 4567
Dealing: 071 626 9431
Amer Spec Sits 153.70 163.40 + 0.80 ...
European 471.10 501.80 + 7.40 1.44
Far East & Gen 251.90 275.90† + 8.70 ...
Germany 120.30 127.80 + 2.10 ...
Global Assets Inc 74.87 84.73 + 1.19 0.89
Income Inc 147.80 158.10 + 5.60 4.99
International 318.50 340.10 + 6.00 0.69
Intl Income 84.56 89.79† - 0.18 3.93
Japan & General 393.70 425.10 + 8.30 ...
Korean Securities 60.77 64.92 + 0.80 ...
Smlr Cos Div Inc 47.51 50.82 - 0.47 3.71
UK Capital (Inc) 174.60 186.80 + 4.00 1.88
UK Spec Sits 84.70 90.59 + 2.23 0.37

GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD
5 Galahad Street, London SE1 2NE
071 522 2229
EMU Trust 109.81 113.08† - 3.19 7.48
Global High Inc 116.47 120.90 + 0.24 7.85
Fixed Rate Int 116.99 121.45 + 1.60 7.53
Equ & Bond Inc 105.04 111.60 + 2.85 5.90
European Growth 89.10 94.74 + 0.97 ...
Intl PEP Trust 56.94 60.54 + 0.58 ...
High Income 117.20 124.61† + 4.85 3.33
Japan Index 149.60 262.50† +11.20 3.47
-do- Reverse Index 106.10 111.70 - 4.50 1.46
Cash Accum Units 103.61 103.61 + 0.08 5.00

HALIFAX STANDARD TST MGT LTD
PO Box 500, Edinburgh EH8 1EW
0800 838 868
Global Advtg Inc 38.83 41.17 + 1.51 1.43
Income Advtg Inc 32.94 34.92† + 1.36 3.39

HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
Enquiries: 0277 227 300 Dealing: 0277 696 396
Model Platio 198.90 207.90† + 7.60 2.28
Smaller Cos 51.93 53.97 + 0.29 1.83

HENDERSON UNIT TST MGMT LTD
PO Box 2151, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4ET
Enquiries: 0277 263 200 Dealing: 0277 234 972
UK Funds
Special Sits 274.70 293.50 + 6.91 1.45
Best of British 61.60 65.87† + 2.16 2.19
UK Smaller Cos 115.71 124.41 + 3.72 1.03
High Income Funds
Income & Growth 265.69 282.98† + 9.72 3.10
High Income 318.43 340.90† + 8.77 3.75
Extra Income 288.51 302.14† + 8.43 4.13
Pref & Gilt 49.68 53.40† + 1.25 7.63
International
Internazional 258.28 272.68 + 7.52 0.32
Global Bond 58.78 62.52† - 0.43 5.78
Family of Funds 78.20 83.38 + 2.04 0.48
Global Tech 143.56 153.53† + 2.55 ...
Overseas Funds
Asian Enterprise 174.27 186.36 + 5.64 0.26
European 428.43 453.99† + 5.02 0.47
European Income 70.01 71.60 + 0.95 2.38
Euro Smlr Cos 133.50 142.09† + 0.70 0.36
Far East Inc 305.02 324.49 + 2.69 0.20
European Inc 154.36 164.21 + 2.60 1.27

HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS
NLA Tower Addiscombe Road, Croydon
081 686 4355
British 97.50 104.20† + 3.10 1.89
Capital 171.20 183.00 + 6.90 1.67
Cash 331.70 354.50† + 2.20 0.85
European 220.70 236.00 + 2.70 0.45
Far East 312.40 334.10 + 8.30 0.40
High Yield 817.00 873.70 +35.00 1.38
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc 28.50 29.61 + 0.54 6.98
High Yield 111.60 118.70† + 3.30 6.41
Income & Growth 149.60 160.00† + 5.80 3.04
International 232.60 248.90 + 4.60 0.06
Japanese General 180.60 193.10 + 6.40 ...
Japan Tech 64.77 69.27 + 2.35 ...
Net Resources 65.44 69.96 + 0.14 0.51
Portfolio 71.98 76.98 + 2.09 1.80
Security 325.30 347.90 +11.50 1.85
Sma

Small gains at the close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 29. Dealings end December 10. §Contango day December 13. Settlement day December 20. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
457	345	Abbey Ntl	452	+15	11.8	3.3	17.4
350	179	Allied Irish	281	...	...	3.7	14.3
221	130	Aus New Z	221	-4	...	4.0	∞
3600¼	2712½	Bankamerica	2975 †	+12½	...	...	...
285	177	Bk of Ireland	277	-1	...	4.5	20.4
350	325	Bk Leumi UK	350	...	17.0	6.1	...
213	116½	Bank Scotland	213	+10½	4.6	2.7	28.9
626	362	Barclays	609	-5	...	2.6	...
4¼	2	Benchmark	4¼	...	...	...	...
23¼	15¼	Carlisle	22	...	...	...	5.9
595	395	Cater Allen	595	+7	28.0	6.0	...
153	85	Cattles	142	+1	...	4.0	18.9
2487½	1787½	Chase Manh	2287½	...	...	...	...
2600	1349	Citicorp	2393½	-18½	...	...	...
483	250	Close Bros	483	...	...	...	...
£147¼	9275	Commerzbk	£147¼	...	...	2.8	17.6
£347¼	£250¼	Deutsche Bk	£309	+262½	...	2.7	...
95	45	First Nat Fin	68	...	...	1.8	...
1651	876	Fuji Bank Y	1401	...	...	0.9	...
529	343	Gerrard Nat	458	...	...	0.4	...
775	490	HSBC	755	+5	21.5	5.9	12.2
785	474	HSBC HK	758	-4	20.0	3.3	18.1
403	243	Hambros	384	-2	20.0	3.3	18.4
428	313	Joseph (L)	420	...	14.3	4.7	17.7
155	96	King Shaxson	141	...	16.7	5.0	...
539	312	Kleinwort Ben	534	...	9.0	8.0	...
630	492	Lloyds	626	-3	16.7	3.9	18.5
118	63	Lon Scot Bk	95	+9	19.1	3.8	17.0
575	322	Nat Aust Bk	538	...	2.9	3.8	18.8
602	398	Nat West	596	+1	...	4.0	∞
460	270	Provident	438	+2	17.8	3.7	36.2
54	30	Rea Bros	50	-2	12.4	3.6	19.0
435	207	Ryl Bk Scot	430	...	0.5	1.4	53.1
1335	467½	Schroders	1206	+2	...	3.3	22.5
1153	576	Stand Chart	1153	+13	...	1.2	24.1
237¼	145¼	TSB	237½	+43	20.5	2.2	...
190	78	Union Disc	168	+6¼	6.4	3.4	...
940	520	Warburg SG	887	-1	...	...	...
8600	4843¼	Wells Fargo	7962½	...	...	2.8	13.0
205	121	Westpac	198	-12½	...	2.5	...
325	188	Wintrust	320	-2	...	2.6	∞
				...	9.3	3.6	28.6

BREWERIES

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
646	517	Allied-Lyons	611	-6	...	4.4	16.7
647	441	Bass	531	-6	...	4.8	14.0
290	189	Boddington	276	+1	7.5	3.4	16.1
459	362	Bulmer (HP)	433	...	...	2.9	18.9
184	129	Burtonwd Brw	178	...	4.7	3.4	14.9
130	75	Eldridge P 'A'♠	125	-1	...	3.3	33.1
70¼	50	Fosters Brewing	65	...	...	4.0	∞
435	338	Fullr Sm 'A'♠	415	...	...	2.2	17.8
480	373	Grand Met	434½	+4½	...	3.8	16.6
427	347	Greenalls Grp	408	-2	12.0	3.7	13.5
575	505	Greene King	570	...	...	2.7	16.1
521	388	Guinness	471	-2½	...	3.2	17.6
281	230	Hardy Hansn	237	-2	7.8	4.1	13.2
138	105	Heavitree♠	115	...	3.0	3.3	27.4
353	255	Highland Distl	334 †	...	...	2.5	16.6
3138	2538	Holt J	3125	...	42.0	1.7	20.4
80	33	Hoskins Brew	75	+2	...	...	54.0
323	250	Invrgordn Dist	301	...	...	2.9	17.2
186	118	Macallan-Glen	130	...	4.3	4.2	29.2
465	375	Macdn Martn 'A'	393 †	...	...	2.8	18.7
225	164	Mansfield	192	...	...	2.5	13.8
299	231	Marston Thmp	284 †	+1	...	2.4	17.2
553	288½	Matthew Clark	553	+7	...	4.1	18.4
300	210	Mrydwn W	223	...	7.0	3.9	17.5
545	455	Morland	525 †	...	9.7	2.3	∞
12	6¼	Paramount♠	8¼	+¼	...	2.1	∞
200	145	Regent Inns	200	+1	...	2.8	30.3
1195	753	SA Breweries	1195	+29	...	2.3	20.2
539	393	Scot & New	538	+18	...	3.9	16.7
225	173	Thwaites Cider	185	...	6.0	4.1	15.1
270	213	Vaux Group	270	...	9.3	4.3	18.6
357	225	Wetherspoon JD	334	...	...	2.0	25.9
574¼	435	Whitbread 'A'	561 †	+2	...	4.0	13.5
613	463	Wolvrhmptn D	532	...	11.8	2.8	15.0
515	475	Young 'A'	485 †	...	14.7	3.8	20.1

BUILDING, ROADS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
140	73	Abbey	140	...	...	1.7	23.0
25¼	12¼	Albrighton♠	19	...	...	...	...
148	87	Allen♠	147	+2	...	4.3	32.9
120	65	Amec	113	+1	3.0	3.3	20.9
12	4	Anglia Sec	7¼	...	...	...	...
326	150	Ashtead♠	320	...	...	1.8	33.8
148	101	Airwoods	127 †	-4	...	4.9	...
300	180	BPB Ind	300 †	+7	...	3.9	35.9
97	57	Baggeridge Brk	90	...	3.1	4.3	30.2
31	18	Bailey (Ben) Con	26	...	0.6	2.9	...
108	74	Barcom	83	...	1.2	1.9	15.1
56¼	32¼	Bardon	43¼	+¼	2.0	5.7	21.4
195	94	Barratt Devs	193	...	4.0	2.6	∞
460	305	Bellway	452 †	-1	12.0	3.3	∞
43	15	Bellwinch	39	...	...	...	...
452	295¼	Berkeley Gp	450	...	...	1.7	28.2
116	45	Bett Bros	110 †	...	...	2.3	14.2
63	36	Blockleys	47	...	1.0	2.7	51.9
346	189	Blue Circle	337	-4	...	4.2	...
285	230	Boot (Henry)	273	...	6.0	2.7	15.3
106	78	Breedon PLC	92	...	4.6	6.2	22.6
131	82	Br Dredging	130	...	5.2	5.0	28.9
86	45	Brit Fittings	81	...	1.7	2.7	...
155	99	Bryant	153	-1	...	3.9	30.9
121	53	CALA	115	+2	...	2.4	...
340	200	CRH	335	-5	...	2.6	18.4
43	18	Cakebread Rby	30	...	...	...	...
41¼	21	Costain	27	...	...	...	...
150	80¼	Countryside	149	+1	...	3.4	39.4
100	38	Crest Nicholson	99	...	0.0	...	...
112	27	Cussins	102	...	...	1.2	...
7	1¼	Dunton♠	4¼	+¼	...	...	...
25	15	Edmond Hldgs	19	...	0.3	2.0	...
285	178	Epwin	278	...	7.0	3.1	23.5
99	32	Erith	56	...	0.3	0.8	...
506	252	Eve Group♠	503	...	...	2.5	18.2
6¼	3	Explaura♠	4¼	-¼	...	...	...
140	97	Freeman Gp♠	131	...	...	4.8	20.8
50	38	Galliford	38	...	...	3.3	...
81	52	Gibbs & Dandy	80	...	...	3.1	...
923	695	Gleeson (MJ)	915 †	...	12.7	1.7	∞
164	90	Hewden-Stuart	156	...	...	2.6	27.8
51	28	Hewetson	46	...	...	3.4	33.6
386	186	Heywd Wlm	382	-2	13.0	4.5	...
119	37	Higgs & Hill	110	+1	2.5	2.8	...
38	26	How Gp	28	...	...	5.0	...
21	15	Howard Hldgs	16	...	0.5	1.0	...
78	39	Ibstock Johnsen	68	...	1.0	1.8	...
19¼	12¼	Jarvis	13¼	...	...	...	...
316	196	Laing (J)	306	...	9.0	3.7	12.2
127¼	103	-do- 6.4% Cv Pf	120¼	...	...	6.6	...
110	55	La Clydeside♠	110	...	4.5	5.1	41.4
23	10¼	Lovell (YJ)	16	...	...	...	2.3
350	240	Manders	313	+1	9.3	3.7	19.2
182	93	Marley	174	-2	4.2	3.0	51.0
127	61	Marshalls	123	-2	...	4.1	...
190	122	Maunders (J)	190	...	...	3.4	18.3
217	96	McAlpine (A)	204	...	6.5	4.0	35.3
47	23	McCarthy & S	41	+1	0.5	1.5	...
476	272	Meyer Int	476 †	+4	...	2.6	47.7
129	62	Mowlem (J)	120	-1	4.0	4.2	...
165	51	NSM	135	-1	...	...	...
51	48	Needler ♠	48	...	...	3.7	22.4
171	106	Newman Tnks	157	-3	...	5.4	22.8
300	197	Persimmon	279	-¼	8.6	3.9	28.5
26	10	Phoenix Timber	10	...	...	...	34.7
1725	1237¼	Pochins	1550	...	29.0	2.4	21.8
163	80	Prowting	153	...	3.4	2.8	...
6¼	1¼	Quiligotti♠	1¼	...	...	...	...
906	535	RMC Gp	894	+1	...	2.8	33.6
117	75¼	Raine Ind	113	...	...	4.5	19.6
36	18	Ramus♠	33	...	...	...	...
582	402	Redland	573	+5	25.0	5.5	33.3
86	64	Roskel	80	...	4.3	6.7	11.8
305	207	Rugby Group	305	+3	6.4	2.6	23.4
68	23	Sviridi-Eve♠	65	...	...	0.5	...
163	68	Sharpe & Fisher	162	...	...	3.1	28.2
241	80¼	Sheffield Insl	237	+1	...	2.8	58.2
175	82	Sherriff Hldgs♠	175	+2	...	1.6	28.1
95	60	Sheroco♠	93	...	...	7.0	21.1
240	196	Smart (J)	222	...	...	4.8	16.7
6¼	1¼	Starmin	2	...	...	...	...
156	100	Tarmac	156	+7	5.5	4.4	...
194	137	Tay Homes	172	...	...	4.4	20.4
130	63	Taylor Woodrw	123	-2	1.0	1.0	...
633	433	Tilbury Dougls	603	...	33.0	6.8	19.6
39	19	Torex Hire♠	34	...	...	1.5	...
290	168	Travis Perkins	289	...	8.0	3.5	50.9
40	25	Try Group	28	...	1.0	4.5	7.9
28	21	Tudor♠	21	...	...	1.5	...
99	41	Vibroplant	86 †	...	2.5	3.6	30.9
65	20	Ward Hldgs	35	-8	...	...	...
36	25	Waterhouse	35	...	...	...	...
475	350	Watts Blake	427	...	...	3.5	18.4
21¼	6¼	Wescol♠	20	...	...	...	...
179	90	Westbury	179	...	5.0	3.5	27.9
12	4¼	West Scaffold♠	7	...	...	...	...
4¼	3	Wiggins	3¼	...	...	...	...
457¼	362	Wilson Bowdn	436	...	...	2.5	30.7
205	147	Wilson (C)	187	...	3.9	2.6	32.4
194	104	Wimpey G	183	-3	...	3.6	...
47	15	YRM	19	-2	0.5	3.3	...

BUSINESS SERVICES

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
675	463	ADT	601	+1	...	...	...
248	198	Adam & Harvey	243	...	13.0	6.7	4.5
92	56	Air London♠	61	...	...	7.2	10.8
56	37	African Lakes	44	...	2.0	5.7	...
178	93	Auto Sec	139	...	...	5.5	24.9
138	84	BET Ord	135¼	+¼	...	2.1	5.5
115	41	BNB Res	114	...	4.9	5.4	...
318	193	BPP	230	...	8.3	4.5	12.7
288	195	Barbour Index	240	...	8.0	4.2	16.4
28	15	Boustead	24 †	...	0.7	3.6	...
269	184	Brit Data Mgt	230	...	4.7	2.6	16.8
26	11	Broadcastle♠	22	...	...	1.4	17.5
73	54	Brooks Service	64	+1	...	1.0	...
109	86	CRT Gp	92	...	...	3.8	16.3
193	139¼	Capita Group	190	...	...	1.5	29.7
45¼	31	Casket Plc	42	...	...	2.7	16.1
55	18¼	Chiltern Capital	22¼	+2¼	...	...	...
55	26	Christie	55	...	...	...	...
383	228	Chubb Sec	378	-3	...	1.6	23.5
116	90	Comac♠	109	+1	...	1.7	28.5
37	6¼	Corp Services	36	...	...	...	...
91	20	Coutts Cnsltg	87	...	...	...	...
137	50	Dart	137	...	3.3	3.0	18.4
256	198	Davis Service	218	...	...	4.6	16.4
111	85	EW Fact♠	111	+1	4.4	5.0	12.7
32	11	Gardiner	26¼	-¼	0.4	2.0	18.4
277	215	Hays	269	-5	...	2.5	23.5
248	174	Hogg Robinsn	229 †	...	...	3.7	16.7
70	34	Holmes Protectn	39	...	...	...	2.4
284	127	Hatch Whamp	273	-1	...	1.8	22.8
2175	975	ISS B DKr	2050	...	...	1.0	14.1
637	475	Inchcape	535	+2	...	3.3	17.4
875	669	Johnson Clean	868	...	25.7	3.7	18.9
12	2¼	Lep	8	...	...	...	...
288	173	Mitie Gp	275	...	3.5	1.6	21.4
1187	893	Manpower	1096	-3	...	...	...
62	40¼	Michael Page	59¼	...	1.8	3.8	25.3
279	115	Pennaa	115 †	...	...	8.7	4.3
6¼	2	Prime People♠	3¼	...	...	29.3	3.5
142	57	Proudfoot Alex	64	...	14.1	4.6	13.3
423	337	RCO	388	...	2.0	2.6	...
118	86	REA	97	...	...	...	...
108	43	Reed Executive	95	...	...	5.1	23.9
156	108	Reliance Sec♠	110	...	...	1.5	26.1
238	178	Rentokil	209	-1	2.5	3.2	15.9
283	220	Rolfe & Nolan	282	...	...	2.8	19.2
399	334	Salvesen (C)	349	+5	...	2.9	11.2
39	26	Scott Pickford♠	35	...	...	...	...
10	5	Select Appt♠	7¼	...	13.3	1.3	35.3
1278	695	Serco Gp	1275	...	...	9.3	2.7
362	83	Sherwd Cmpt♠	94	...	...	3.7	23.1
130	90	Sketchley	101 †	...	6.6	2.5	17.2
355	310	Warner Howrd	330	...	...	...	...
45	27	Welpac	28	...	0.4	1.9	∞
28	14	Wills Gp	26	...	...	...	...

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
248	210	Allied Colloids	234	-1	...	2.3	20.6
966	613	Amersham	963	-1	...	1.8	33.3
7	1¼	Anglo Utd	2	...	...	...	...
£112	8525	BASF DM	£111¼	+162¼	...	5.0	...
300	199	BTP	285	...	...	4.1	19.6
£134¼	£101¼	Bayer DM50	£134¼	+137¼	...	4.1	...
178	118	Blagden	125	-1	6.5	6.5	13.5
165	93	Brent Chems	114	...	...	8.1	10.4
530	345	Br Bio-Tech	375	-¼	...	22.2	16.7
29	6	Caird Gp	6	...	7.2	6.2	16.7
180	126	Canning (W)	146	...	...	3.8	11.7
608	421	Courtaulds	466 †	-2	...	2.9	19.8
347	228	Croda	345	...	...	4.7	9.4
149	121	Doefles	122	...	4.6	4.2	20.1
236	175	Ellis & Everard	210	+1	...	3.1	17.0
42¼	15¼	Euro Colour	35¼	...	0.8	2.4	17.0
344	259	Halstead (J)	343	...	...	6.5	14.3
241	150	Hickson	154	-1	...	3.3	...
£118	8850	Hoechst	£111¼	+50	...	2.7	15.8
229	172	Holliday Chem	172	-1	...	4.5	...
777	608	ICI	761	-7	...	3.7	18.7
693	576	Laporte	676	+1	19.9	5.1	18.6
230	181	Leigh	193	...	...	...	...
97¼	35	MTM	47	...	...	1.5	26.8
2050	1462¼	Norsk Hydro	1887½	-34½	...	...	...

(continued)

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
464	370	Paterson Zoch	431	...	...	3.5	15.2
420	360	-do- 'A'	405	...	...	3.9	13.7
396	199	Plysu	206	+1	...	4.2	13.4
303	173	Porvair	285	...	3.8	1.6	31.5
70	35	Stucliffe Speak	47	...	...	...	...
485	412	Wardle Storeys	415	...	...	...	...
548	395	Wlstnhlme R	548	...	17.0	3.2	10.2
425	330	Yorks Chem	395	-4	...	3.9	18.7
300	233	Yule Catto	262	...	...	2.5	21.2
799	593	Zeneca	796	+11	...	2.9	16.3
				...	...	4.3	47.0

DRAPERY, STORES

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
102	53	Alexon	67	...	...	5.6	...
87	42	Amber Day	59	...	1.3	2.9	∞
371	257	Argos Plc	371	+2	...	2.4	31.7
25	9¼	Ashley Group	12	+1¼	...	2.0	...
118	69	Ashley (Laura)	98	-2	0.1	0.1	...
330	278	Asprey	313	...	5.1	2.0	21.7
154	96	Austin Reed	146	...	...	2.1	...
155	125	Beattie (J) 'A'	148	...	...	5.2	14.8
121	94	Bentalls	109	...	1.9	2.2	...
278	142¼	Betterware	148	-10	...	1.8	17.7
47	22	Blacks Leis	42	...	2.2	6.8	...
227	133	Body Shop	213	...	...	1.0	27.5
16¼	11¼	Brown & Jacksn	11¼	...	...	0.9	5.8
434	318	Brown (N)	424	...	...	2.2	24.9
87¼	61¼	Burton	66	...	2.0	3.8	∞
181	126	Cantors	181	+5	4.0	2.8	∞
360	295	Church	334	...	12.5	4.7	29.7
185	97	Clinton Cards	155	...	4.3	3.5	18.7
280¼	212	Coats Viyella	258	-3	...	3.5	37.0
112	78	Colourvision♠	83	...	5.6	8.4	14.9
181	154	Cty Casuals	157	...	...	3.3	14.6
918	374	Courts Furnish	915	+27	5.5	0.8	11.5
155	115	Crown Eye♠	133	...	...	0.6	9.1
130	89	Dairy Farm Intl	116	+2	...	3.1	17.0
91¼	51¼	Dewhirst (IJ)	91¼	...	0.8	1.1	29.4
285	189	Dixons Grp	282	-1	...	2.7	...
21	8	ERA Gp	10	...	...	...	...
530	400	Elys (Wimbldn)	530	...	16.0	3.8	18.2
166	71	Essex Furn	151	+1	...	2.9	34.2
273	201	Etam	230 †	...	7.0	3.8	21.1
608	499	Fine Art Dev	569	+4	12.7	2.8	18.6
70	26	Fired Earth Tiles	47	...	...	...	...
630	498	Forminster	620	...	14.0	2.8	11.3
180	24	French Conn♠	120	-6	...	...	...
74	43	Gent SR	70	...	...	3.8	21.7
78	23	Goldsmiths Gp	78	...	0.3	0.5	...
597	334	GUS	587¼	+7¼	...	2.3	18.8
40	23	Hampden Grp♠	23	...	...	5.4	11.4
277	30	Harristone	41	...	...	8.5	...
29	20	Helene Plc	29¼	...	2.0	8.8	13.5
75	29	Heritage♠	75	...	...	...	...
79	35	Honeysuckle♠	67	...	...	4.2	...
161	63	Jacques Vert	156	...	...	2.4	12.0
732	496	Kingfisher	730	-6	...	2.4	25.1
74	62¼	Leslie Wise Gp	73	...	4.0	6.8	15.0
685	495	Liberty	545	...	7.2	1.7	64.2
325	341	Lloyds Chem	314¼	-2¼	7.2	2.9	∞
152	120	MFI	146	+3	...	3.2	30.7
459¼	311	Marks Spencer	455	+3	...	2.3	23.3
580	445	Menzies (John)	560	...	...	2.4	15.9
253	135	Moss Bros	229	...	5.5	3.0	26.9
212	139¼	Next	206	-3	3.5	2.1	24.6
41	15	Oliver (G)	39	...	...	...	...
324	197	Oriflame Ind	302	...	...	4.0	14.8
63	35¼	Pentos	35¼	-1	0.8	2.8	7.4
313	185	QS Hldgs	225	...	5.1	2.9	16.0
69¼	20¼	Rhino Grp♠	60 †	-1	...	...	...
170	120	Rosebys	170	...	...	3.6	20.4
181	135	Sherwood Gp	146	...	...	2.2	13.2
127	93	Sears	127	+3	...	3.4	...
41¼	11	Signet Group	22	-¼	...	...	...
512	400	Smith WH 'A'	493	-2	...	3.6	16.2
20	4¼	Specialeyes♠	18	...	...	...	...
229	176	Storehouse	222	-1	...	2.8	21.7
191	148	T & S Stores	150	...	6.0	5.0	11.2
162	71	Tie Rack	142	...	1.0	0.9	21.2
239	160	Time Products	232 †	...	7.7	4.2	20.0
128	63	Usher (Frank)♠	108	...	...	6.9	9.3
339	302	Vendome	338	-1	...	2.3	15.7
45	27	Vivat	36	...	1.0	3.5	11.1
48	34	Wensum♠	44	...	...	5.3	...
120	76	Wickes	117	...	...	0.2	53.2
78	45	Wid of Leather♠	54	-3	...	...	...
192¼	142	Wyevale	170	...	...	3.1	22.5
4	2¼	Xtra-vision♠	2¼	-¼	...	...	...

ELECTRICALS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
187	134	ACT Group	152	+1	...	4.1	15.3
275	223	Acale	275	...	...	2.9	19.2
162¼	38	Acorn Compt♠	91	...	...	...	46.1
480	385	Admiral	470	...	5.7	1.5	19.9
170	104	Alba	163	...	...	3.7	20.3
50	19¼	Alphameric	39¼	...	...	...	...
55	22	Amstrad	42¼	-2¼	0.5	1.5	∞
128	61	App Holo♠	74	...	...	...	...
43	9¼	Arlen	37	...	...	...	...
88	35¼	Astec	74¼	...	...	0.4	...
293	224	Beales Humer	234	...	...	5.0	14.5
9	2	Bennett & Fount	2¼	...	...	...	...
446	379	BICC	404	-5	19.2	6.0	...
558	408	Blick	448	...	...	2.8	18.0
1700	925	Borland♠	1200	...	...	...	...
371	274	Bowthorpe	368	+1	6.4	2.2	24.0
484¼	376	BT	471¼	+2¼	...	4.3	17.9
232¼	150	BT P/P	219¼	+1¼	...	4.3	22.4
18¼	5¼	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	16¼	+¼	0.1	0.8	...
160	48	Burnfield	53	+1	5.7	13.6	8.4
509	334¼	Cable Wireless	490	...	...	2.0	25.5
27¼	11¼	Chloride	24	-¼	...	...	...
273	229	CML Micro♠	270	...	...	2.2	14.6
115	74	Comptr People	108	...	...	...	...
164	108¼	Cray Elect	151	-1	...	1.2	15.5
433	243	Critchley	423	+1	...	1.4	24.2
554	414	Delta	485	-12	...	3.6	20.3
430	205	Denmans El♠	430	+10	...	1.8	18.3
620	395	Domino	425	...	7.4	2.2	14.5
85	48	Dowding Mills	64¼	+¼	...	4.8	27.6
1205	865	Druck♠	1203	...	10.0	1.0	25.7
481	358	Electrocomps	480	+7	...	2.2	19.6
710	470	El Data Pro	663	-5	5.1	1.0	18.2
146	43	Electron House	135	...	2.6	2.4	29.6
30¼	10¼	Emess	19¼	-1	0.1	0.6	...
632	442	Eurotherm	631	+1	8.5	1.7	28.7
187¼	108	FKI	181¼	...	...	2.3	26.6
547¼	340	Farnell Elect	544	+11¼	...	1.5	28.8
91	33	Feedback♠	77	...	...	2.4	10.0
18	3	Ferranti	1 †	...	...	...	...
280	101	First Tech	276	+13	...	0.5	23.0
270	81	Forward Gp♠	265 †	...	...	2.0	22.1
22¼	13¼	Forward Tech	14¼	...	...	...	...
367¼	264	GEC	323¼	+4	10.4	4.1	16.0
199	132	Graseby	155	...	...	8.8	32.6
14	7¼	Graystone	10¼	-¼	...	...	...
53	36	Hiclare♠	42	...	...	1.5	...
169	83	INSTEM♠	135	...	...	2.9	9.7
169	118	Ind Control	150	...	4.4	3.7	∞
388	320	Jones Stroud	388	...	...	2.8	15.6
105	26	Kalamazoo	100	+1	2.2	3.4	23.0
19	8	Kenbury	12¼	...	0.1	1.6	...
349	260	Kenwood App	327	+2	...	3.0	18.2
265	47	Kewill Syst	234	+1	...	...	...
209	100	Kode	165	...	...	6.0	4.5	19.6
60	16	Laser-Scan♠	19	-1	...	...	...
365	122	LBMS♠	163	-2	...	0.6	23.0
300	205	Lec Refrig	265	...	9.0	4.2	...
179	129	Life Sciences	132	...	3.7	3.6	14.3
285	164	Logica	269	-1	...	1.9	31.0
55	44	LPA Ind♠	52	...	...	8.5	14.7
229	162	MR Data Mngmt	215	+3	...	3.0	20.2
718	523	Macro 4	658	-7	...	3.4	20.0
243	175¼	Meavier-Sw♠	235	+7	...	2.0	20.8
3013	1033	Micro Focus	1033	-25	...	...	9.5
227	146	Microgen	146	-2	7.2	6.2	9.9
39¼	23¼	Microvitec♠	33¼	...	...	...	...
550	357	Misys	524	...	...	1.7	19.1
584	98	Mitel	421	+68	...	...	...
153	108	MMT Compt♠	145 †	...	...	3.4	19.7
52	16	Molynx	51¼	...	1.3	...	...
272	202	MTL Inst♠	250	...	...	1.9	18.8
165	103	Multitone Elect	140 †	...	3.5	3.1	25.4
240	116	Murray Enter	233	...	...	2.1	...
3206¼	2612¼	NYNEX	2812¼	-12¼	...	...	...
188	128	Neotronics	130	...	2.6	2.5	16.8
65	42	Newmark (L)	56	...	...	...	...
277	58	Norbain♠	269	...	...	0.7	20.7
75	20	Northamber	57	...	0.6	1.3	...
15¼	7¼	Oceonics	8¼	...	...	...	...
300	195	Oxford Inst	299	-1	4.6	1.9	20.5
83	48	P-E Internl	73	...	...	...	...
81¼	29	P & P	61	-1	1.5	3.1	32.4
85	55	Peek	81	...	3.4	5.2	21.2
227	115	Pegasus♠	234	...	...	3.7	54.9
9750	9000	Philips Fn 4%	9750	+250	...	5.9	...
1437¼	725	-do- Lmp nv	1337¼	...	...	...	...
313	211	Phonelink♠	287	...	...	...	...
280	171¼	Pifco	274	...	...	1.9	23.0
280	151¼	-do- 'A' Voting	264	...	...	2.0	22.1
96	63	Plasmec♠	73	...	...	5.1	6.2
120	76	Pressac	105	...	...	3.1	22.3
188	81	Psion♠	173	...	...	1.8	45.9
261	147	Racal Elect	162	+2	4.2	3.3	9.5
70	41	Radamec	41	-2	...	4.6	8.8
70	24	Radius♠	27	...	2.2	10.4	9.3
92	61	Real Time ♠	73	...	...	5.1	15.0
35	18	Riva♠	26	...	...	...	33.0
629	367	Sage Gp	439	-2	9.3	2.7	14.1
348	222	Sanderson Elec	300	...	9.9	4.1	12.8
88	40	Scantronic	75	...	3.1	5.2	18.9
181	117	Scholes Grp	157	-1	...	4.0	20.3
375	270	Sema Gp	318	...	2.9	1.1	25.8
42	26	Silvermines	41	...	...	2.9	...
51	37	Soundtracks♠	51	...	...	3.6	17.2
2675	1737¼	TDK	2250	-25	...	1.4	25.5
22	4¼	TDS Circuits♠	11¼	...	...	...	...
198	80	Telemetrix	148	...	0.8	0.7	34.4
1017	809	THORN EMI	973	+15	...	4.1	22.3
152	96	Thorpe FW	133	-1	...	2.5	15.5
103	38	Total Systems♠	38	...	3.0	9.9	6.7
575	372	Tunstall	558	-5	5.7	1.3	22.3
295	164	Unitech	254	+1	...	3.0	60.2
11¼	6	Verity	9	...	...	...	...
35	22¼	Vistec♠	25	...	...	1.9	14.5
585	367	Vodafone	557 †	-12	...	1.7	24.2
473	368	Volex	414	+2	18.1	5.6	16.7
26	11	Western Selectn	19	...	...	...	...
290	223	Wholesale Ftgs	260	-2	11.7	5.6	27.6

ELECTRICITY

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
607	389	East Midlands	603	+8	...	4.0	11.3
626	399	Eastern Elect	626	+6	...	4.1	11.8
419	304	Hydro-Elect	415	+1	...	3.4	15.0
618	404	London Elect	614	+10	...	4.0	13.6
673	458	Manweb	672	+6	...	3.8	9.7
645	424¼	Midlands Elec	645	+5	...	3.9	11.6
421	273	National Powr	418	+2	...	3.3	10.4
666	440	Northern Elec	655	+3	...	4.1	9.5
211	100	Nthn Ireland	211	+5	...	3.8	11.1
675	439	Norweb	675	+4	20.0	3.7	10.5
410¼	273	PowerGen	407¼	+2¼	...	3.0	12.2
420	285	Scottish Power	418	+1	...	3.5	15.4
681	436	Seeboard	676	+7	...	3.7	10.9
697	469	Sth Wales	697	+8	...	4.0	11.6
635	426	Sth Western	635	+11	...	3.9	10.1
642	400	Southern Elec	640	+3	...	3.8	11.7
647	455	Yorkshire Elec	646	+5	...	4.0	12.2

FINANCE, LAND

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
60¼	50	Aitken Hume	55	...	1.0	2.3	11.7
133	47	BWD♠	128	...	...	3.3	20.0
101	26	Baltic Plc	101	...	...	1.2	...

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
625	413	Caledonia	623 †	+2	...	3.1	23.2
1850	1075	Camellia	1850	...	...	2.0	6.9
318	243	Candover	304	-4	10.4	4.3	21.5
298	71	Fleetech♠	284	...	...	0.2	...
352	155	Goven	332	-2	...	4.9	9.7
188	125	Ivory Sime	166	-2	...	4.9	15.5
6¼	3	LIT	5¼	+¼	...	...	...
240	154	Lon Forfaiting♠	235	+2	8.7	4.6	17.1
76	47	Manakin	76	...	5.0	8.2	∞
12¼	3¼	Nat Home Loan	9¼	+¼	...	...	...
52	40	Newmarket	52	...	...	...	...
341	246	Rathbone Bro	305	-1	6.5	2.7	18.5
26	17	Rutland Tst	19¼	...	...	5.1	11.6
340	253	S & U	309	...	10.2	4.1	11.5
83	48	Singer & Fried	79	+1	...	4.7	...
1038	713	Sotheby's	1005	...	...	3.4	...
126	113	SJP Capital	113	-1	3.0	3.3	46.6
2556¼	1487¼	Amer Express	2175	+6¼	...	...	...
1133	835	Henderson Ad	973 †	+5	...	5.4	22.4
200	92	Invesco	171	-1	...	2.2	...
292	164	Jardine Strat	251	-6	...	3.1	10.5
241	154	MAI	230	...	...	3.6	15.1
728	389	MAM	683	...	16.0	2.9	17.1
1005	633	M & G	954	+3	...	2.8	25.4
428	109	Smith New Crt	423	...	...	1.8	6.4
81	45	Trio Hldgs	49	+2	...	7.7	...

FOODS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
545	456	AB Food	538	+1	...	3.5	11.0
77¼	49	ASDA Group	50¼	+1	1.6	3.9	12.2
330	170	Acatos & Hutch	316	...	7.6	3.0	18.2
80	55	Albert Fisher	64	+1	3.7	7.3	∞
407	246	Argyll	295	-4	...	5.5	9.0
230	160	Banks (S C)	220	...	9.0	5.1	9.8
400	305	Barr (AG)	305	...	6.5	2.7	15.4
85	57	Bensons Crps♠	62	...	...	5.7	13.9
141	100	Berisford Intl	107	...	...	...	...
455	357	Booker	394	-2	...	6.9	34.2
52	35	Borthwick	50	-¼	...	3.0	61.5
505	400	Brake Bros	474	...	6.3	1.7	19.7
51	38	Budgen	42	...	...	3.0	12.8
503	407	Cadbury-Schw	467	-8	...	3.6	16.5
143	78	Carrs Milling	129	...	3.9	3.8	25.8
196	133	Cranswick	141	...	...	7.1	10.6
22	8¼	Callens	13	...	0.5	4.8	37.3
384	119	Dalepak	136	...	6.0	5.5	10.7
521	424	Dalgety	484	-1	...	5.3	13.8
54	27	Daniels S	50	...	...	0.6	...
254	191	Devro	252	-2	...	2.7	24.0
134	99	Everest	101	...	...	4.0	18.3
393	269	Farepak	371	...	5.7	1.9	22.8
10	3	Faringstord	7	...	...	...	...
94	64	Finlay (James)	73	...	...	7.1	24.2
125	78	Fyffes	100	...	...	1.5	18.0
483	309	Geest	309	-5	8.1	3.3	13.9
16	7	Global♠	14	...	...	4.5	21.8
50	43	Grand Central	49	...	0.8	2.0	...
203	139	Hazlewood Fds	154	-3	...	5.4	8.5
175	131	Hillsdown	149	-4	8.8	7.4	11.7
250	160	Iceland Group	161	-3	...	2.7	10.2
131	92	JLI Group	104	+1	...	5.7	11.3
853	544	Kwik Save	545 †	-1	...	4.2	9.8
262	144	Low (Wm)	153 †	...	...	6.9	5.4
83	41	Matthews (B)	76	...	2.3	3.9	49.8
19¼	11	Merchant Retail	14	...	0.9	8.6	28.3
174	84	Morrison (W)	89	-1	...	1.2	11.6
233	177	Nichols (JN)	226	...	5.5	3.1	16.4
291	211	Ntm Foods	211	-1	...	5.1	10.2
20¼	9¼	Nrthmbrn Fn♠	11	...	...	...	...
229	172	Nurdin Peack	190	...	...	4.1	10.5
251	205	Park Foods	244	-1	...	3.1	18.8
115	78	Perkins Food	83	+¼	...	6.7	9.5
114	47	PizzaExpress	106	...	...	0.6	22.4
9	1¼	Regina Hlth♠	4	...	...	...	...
584	360	Sainsbury J	410 †	+6	...	3.1	14.4
86	33	Sentry Farm♠	73	...	...	2.6	13.1
225	94	Sims Food	104	...	...	9.0	20.0
439	355¼	Tate & Lyle	400 †	-1	...	4.1	10.6
273	176	Tesco	192	-1¼	...	4.8	8.7
211	123	Thorntons	166	...	...	2.7	...
183	101	Treatt♠	140	...	...	3.3	16.0
410	300	Unigate	348 †	...	...	5.9	11.4
437	326	Utd Biscuits	334	+1¼	...	5.7	20.7
24¼	18¼	Usborne	21¼	...	...	3.1	15.9
337	248	Watson & Phil	280	-5	13.2	5.9	14.6

HOTELS, CATERERS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
26	12	Abrdn Stk H♠	26	...	1.5	2.4	20.0
93¼	77	City Centre Rest	83	...	...	3.8	19.1
252	170	Forte	244	+¼	...	4.7	28.6
215	148	Friendly Hotels	152	...	...	...	...
11¼	3	Harmony Leis♠	10¼	-¼	...	...	...
147	87	Jurys Hotel	147 †	+4	...	4.3	11.9
222¼	142	Ladbroke	145	+1	11.1	9.6	12.4
85	59	Mandarin Orntl	78	+2	...	4.3	19.3
59	44	Queens Moat	47¼	...	...	3.7	...
99	83	-do- 7¼% Cvpr	85	...	7.5	11.0	...
2¼	¼	Regal Hotels♠	1¼	...	...	...	...
55	28	Resort Hotels	45	...	3.4	9.6	8.8
21	11¼	Ryan Hotels E	18¼	...	...	6.4	...
855	700	Savoy Hotel 'A'	800	...	7.0	1.1	...
66	34¼	Stakis	63	...	...	0.9	...

INDUSTRIALS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
218	19	AAF Inds	40	...	...	27.5	2.4
616	455	AAH	491 †	-1	...	4.5	15.8
185	123	AIM	136	...	7.5	6.8	8.4
132	88	APV	112	+1	...	6.0	...
238	81	ASW	158	+10	...	4.7	...
186¼	118	Adwest	156	+1	...	5.8	15.0
29	10	Aerospace Eng	21	...	...	4.5	27.6
281	249	Airsprung	275	...	...	2.0	17.6
189	113	Alexdra W	186	-3	4.1	2.8	29.4
13¼	6¼	Allied Radio	7	...	...	...	...
292¼	207¼	Alumasc	283	...	...	2.6	16.7
48	17	Alvis	36	...	1.0	3.5	7.4
660	345	Amber Ind	650 †	-35	...	3.7	14.9
55	45	Amberley Gp♠	46	...	...	2.7	...
107	75	Anagen	81	...	...	...	...
145	75	Andrews Sykes	84	...	...	6.5	...
1005	703	Anstagasta	950	+15	...	2.1	17.6
54¼	37	Armour	47	...	...	4.4	11.2
170	143	Ash & Lacy	158	...	6.4	5.1	16.2
4	2¼	Ass Br Eng	2¼	...	...	...	...
541¼	434	Avon Rubber	488	...	...	4.2	19.5
265	168	Assoc Nursg♠	265	...	...	0.5	16.2
687¼	508	Atlas Equip	508	...	...	5.4	12.8
81	35	Ayrshire Metal	68	...	...	...	...
190	147	BBA	178	+2	...	5.3	15.1
88	28	BLP Group♠	88	...	...	...	...
77	13	BM Gp	22¼	-¼	0.5	3.6	...
770	590	BOC	661 †	+3	...	4.5	15.4
79¼	50	BSG	60¼	...	...	6.6	21.1
490	353	BSS Group	484	...	...	4.5	29.0
409¼	318	BTR	346	-5	...	4.0	19.3
221	151	BWI	156	+2	...	5.4	14.4
50	25¼	Babcock	28¼	...	...	4.9	16.9
8	4¼	Bailey (CH)	7¼	...	...	...	...
289	240	Baird (Wm)	259 †	-1	8.9	4.3	18.0
1062¼	550	Barlow Rand	697¼	...	...	4.8	∞
65	48	Baynes (Charles)	60	...	...	3.1	24.6
15	4	Beaufort	4¼	...	...	...	...
10	2	Beckenham♠	2	...	...	...	...
34	15	Bedford (W)♠	31	...	...	...	...
27¼	15	Benson Group	16¼	...	...	2.3	12.3
707	285	Bespak	315	...	10.0	4.0	9.9
133	55	Bibby (J)	65	-1	2.0	3.8	∞
312	129	Billam (J)	264	+6	5.3	2.5	13.3
41	21¼	Bilsmn Bitsen♠	29	+1	...	...	...
11¼	2	Bimec Ind	3¼	...	...	...	...
222	118¼	Birkby	222	...	3.5	2.0	21.0
45	29	Black Arrow	29 †	...	2.1	9.1	9.1
1¼	¼	Black & Edgtn♠	1¼	...	...	...	...
253	136	Black (Peter)	245	+2	3.7	1.9	21.5
590	129	Bluebird Toys♠	584	-3	...	1.0	17.8
322	230	Bodycote	266	-3	...	2.4	17.0
40	23	Bogod 'A'	30	...	0.7	2.9	11.2
563	416	Boots	549	+2	...	3.1	21.7
61	42	Booth Inds	49	...	0.7	1.8	...
523	402	Bowater	447	-9	...	3.3	18.7
1682	1189	Bowater Inc	1366	+14	...	...	...
279	199	Bramore Intl♠	252	-5	...	1.9	18.9
19	12¼	Brasway	15¼	...	...	4.1	...
303	204	Brammer	290	...	13.0	5.6	21.6
27	12	Bridgend Gp	20	...	0.4	...	...
125	64	Bridon	116	...	...	4.3	...
88	53	Bridport-Gndry	71 †	...	2.5	4.4	∞
48	31	Brierley Inv	47	+2	...	7.2	11.4
308	200	Br Bldg & Eng	200	...	8.0	5.0	∞
83	42	Br Bloodstock♠	83	+4	...	...	...
528	415	Br Polythene	424	+1	...	3.0	15.2
131¼	54	Br Steel	124 †	-¼	...	1.5	...
180	80	Br Syphon	85	...	...	4.4	23.8
185	115	Br Thornton	166	+1	...	1.9	18.2
268	215	Br Vita	245	+2	7.3	3.7	15.1
15¼	5¼	Britton Grp	14¼	-¼	...	1.6	...
805	555	Broken Hill	736	-4	...	2.4	34.7
112	78	Bromsgrve Ind	92¼	-1¼	...	5.9	12.0
10¼	6¼	Brooke Tool	9	...	...	...	...
73	40	Brown & Tawse	40	...	...	...	...
132	91	Bullough	132	+2	6.0	5.7	22.6
24	11¼	Business Tech♠	16¼	...	...	...	...
18	12	Cl Group	14 †	...	0.5	5.1	13.4
42	21	Camphil & Arm	42	+2	...	...	...
39	6¼	Cannon St	37¼	+1	...	...	...
260	205	Cape	258	...	...	5.1	17.2
387	254	Caradon	384	+5	...	3.0	29.4
177¼	128	-do- pf	175	+1	7.2	5.2	...
254	178	Carclo Eng	254	...	8.6	4.2	18.1
2888	2135	Carnaud Md	2138	...	...	3.8	∞
78	68	Cassidy Bros♠	78	...	...	3.8	12.8
213	158	Castings	210	+2	4.6	2.8	14.7
71	53	Cathay Intl.	56	+1	...	...	...
195	113	Chamberlin Hill	175	...	6.5	4.6	10.9
753	605	Charter	731	...	...	4.8	17.2
345	220	Chemring	315	...	...	3.3	19.0
92	45	Chieftain Gp♠	50	...	4.5	11.3	10.7
45¼	15¼	Chillington	38	...	1.0	3.4	...
215	144	Christies Int	210	...	...	0.9	52.1
65	34	Claybithe	65	...	...	4.8	...
95	55	Clayton Son	55	...	...	...	...
7	7	Co Designers♠	7	...	...	...	...
405	285	Cohen (A)	403	...	3.4	1.1	...
241	179	Community H	240	+1	...	3.6	16.4
246	186¼	Concentric	206	...	5.8	3.6	∞
288	120	Cook (Wm)	251	+1	6.0	3.0	15.2
233	182	Cookson	209	+1	...	3.6	27.7
76	38	Copymore♠	71	...	...	1.8	21.7
238	130	Cornell Pkr 'A'	156	-1	...	4.6	21.1
178	92	Cosair	118	...	5.3	5.9	∞
234	150	Creighton Nis	203	...	...	4.5	14.8
48	37	CrestaCare	38	+2	0.6	2.1	32.9
3956¼	2993¼	Dana	3706¼	-6¼	...	...	...
313	78¼	Danka Bs Sys	288 †	-1	...	0.7	27.4
220	190	David Brown	220	...	...	3.4	15.6
22	5	Davies (DY)♠	18	...	...	...	...
830	632	De La Rue	804 †	-15	...	3.0	19.4
35	16	Dinkie Heel	35 †	+3	1.1	4.2	26.3
574	391	Diploma	565 †	+2	12.0	2.7	∞
89	50	Dobson Park	89	...	5.0	7.1	16.0
119	92	Dyson (J&J)	111	...	5.0	5.6	20.4
83	57	-do- 'A'	74	...	5.0	8.4	13.6
16¼	8	EFG	14	...	...	...	...
440	367	EIS	401	...	...	3.8	15.9
28	19	Ebief	22	...	...	...	...
50	19	Eleco	48	...	...	...	0.00
2537¼	1750	Electrolux 'B'	2312½	-50	...	3.3	...
73	43	Elliott (B)	67	...	...	...	...
475	394	Eng China Cl	429	-4	...	5.8	25.0
140	111	Environmed	138	...	...	...	∞
3962¼	1550	Ericsson 'B'	2800	...	...	1.0	...
77	32	Eurocopy	58	...	1.6	2.2	22.5
87	47	Expamet	84	...	...	4.7	1.5
717	499	Fairey Group	675	...	10.7	2.0	20.8
121	67	Fenner	117	...	...	...	...
75	32	Ferraris Group	70	...	2.0	3.6	∞
2¼	¼	Ferromet♠	2¼	+¼	...	...	...
29	15	Ferrum	15	...	1.4	11.7	10.5
66	28	Fife Indmar	58	...	0.7	1.6	...
251	137	Fisons	142	+5	...	7.7	13.2
53	29	Fitzwilton	33	...	...	8.6	...
288	215	Flogas	283	...	...	3.9	11.6
43	33	Folkes Group nv	33	...	1.5	5.7	18.7
90	56	French (Thomas)	90	+5	3.6	5.0	45.1
234	162	Frost Group	212	+1	...	2.6	27.5
88	70	GEI Int	75	...	...	4.1	...
513	434	GKN	494	+1	...	5.2	33.0
51	42	GR Hldgs	46	...	...	4.9	...
101	79	Garton Eng	92	...	4.1	5.6	...
161	103	Gestetner	136	...	8.2	7.5	3.9
68	23	Gieves	48	...	...	...	34.7
801	509	Glaxo	695¼	+8¼	...	4.0	18.2
38¼	16	Glenchewton	38	...	...	...	...
331	245	Glynwed	327	-1	11.6	4.5	30.8
129	66	Goode Durrant	126	...	...	5.4	...
153	102	Grampian Hld	141	+1	5.3	4.9	24.5
498	341	Granada	480	+1	7.9	2.0	26.1
455	301	Great Strns♠	454	...	...	3.1	18.7
117	73	Green (Ernst)♠	74	-7	...	11.8	11.2
19¼	8¼	Greencare♠	14	...	...	2.7	13.9
17	5	Guardian Grp♠	6¼	...	...	...	...
68	30¼	Haden MacLn	68	...	...	3.7	24.5
94	44	Hadleigh Inds♠	81	+4	...	0.8	...
290	115	Hall Eng	274	...	8.6	3.9	22.0
229	101	Halma	214	-1	...	1.2	28.7
51	30	Hampson Ind	51	...	1.6	3.9	16.9
286¼	222	Hanson	265¼	-3	...	5.4	21.0
221	152	Harris (Philip)	152	-2	...	5.7	9.1
199	147	Harrisn Crsfld	197	+2	9.0	5.7	28.4
123	38	Havelock Euro	116	...	...	...	...
51	20	Hay (Norman)	37	-1	...	...	...
30	17	Headway	30	...	0.7	2.9	∞
13¼	4¼	Healthcare	4¼	...	...	22.2	1.2
418	301	Hepworth	408	-7	14.8	4.5	17.6
228	160	Hewitt (J)	205	...	3.2	2.0	16.0
57¼	15	High-Point	54	...	0.5	1.2	...
167	112¼	Hill & Smith	166	...	...	4.2	23.1
19¼	6¼	Hobson♠	17	...	...	...	...
176	87	Holders Tech♠	172	...	...	4.4	22.4
52	30	Hopkinsons	45	...	0.9	2.5	34.0
188	133	Hornby♠	187	...	...	6.0	17.7
88	54¼	Howden	78	...	2.2	3.5	14.4
260	173	Hunting	220	...	...	5.7	18.6
503	269¼	Huntleigh Tec♠	465	+2	...	2.7	11.9
312	247	IMI	298	+3	...	4.2	26.4
119	90	ISA Intl	113	...	1.5	1.7	17.6
205	131	Intercare Gp♠	135	...	...	2.5	14.3
286	235	Isotron	279	...	4.3	1.9	16.2
666	360	Jardine Math	593	+12	...	2.1	21.5
537	425	Johnson Matth	494	+5	...	2.7	19.1
64	36¼	Johnson & FB	39	...	3.0	9.6	12.0
177	104	Johnston	167	...	3.2	...	...
32	19	Jones Shipman	25	...	...	...	...
35	18	Jourdan (T)	30 †	...	0.7	3.1	...
178	73	Kalon	159	...	...	2.8	22.1
297	195	Kelsey Ind	250	...	8.0	4.0	...
685	465	Kenfare (A)	685	...	22.0	4.9	35.5
247	75	Kleeneze	243	-3	...	...	...
151	61	LGW♠	143	...	3.4	3.0	11.9
351	266	Laird	321	-1	...	4.1	15.8
157¼	103	Lilleshall	150	...	...	3.6	19.7
223	97	Lincat	204	...	...	3.7	14.4
33¼	4¼	Lincoln Hse♠	32	-¼	...	...	26.4
128	76	Linread	89	-9	3.8	5.4	13.8
285	170	Linton Park	285	...	...	6.1	10.3
15¼	9¼	Lionheart	10¼	+¼	0.2	2.4	...
27¼	15	Locker (T) A	17 †	...	0.8	6.3	24.7
274	131	Lon Intl	148	...	9.4	8.0	11.3
144	70	Lontho	133	-2	...	3.8	...
388	269	Low & Bonar	336	+1	...	3.5	47.1
41	14¼	ML Hldgs	39	...	...	...	...
58	27	MS Intl	52	...	...	6.0	53.6
55	39	MY Holdings	50	...	...	3.2	∞
216	168	Macfarlane	208	...	...	2.0	23.6
480	379	McKechnie	444	...	14.7	4.2	∞
123	85	McLeod Russel	118 †	-4	6.1	6.5	∞
10¼	1¼	Maddox	1¼	...	...	...	9.6
106	63	Magnolia	100	...	0.1	0.1	16.1
119	71	Mang Bronze	115	+1	2.5	2.7	∞
26¼	19¼	Marling	25	...	...	3.3	...
208	124	Mayborn♠	208	...	...	3.1	16.0
62	28	Mayflower	55	...	...	1.0	45.9
236	85	Medeva	135	+8¼	...	2.2	11.0
118	88	Meggitt	94	-1	...	5.1	16.0
125	98	Metalr	112	...	...	4.2	18.3
154	126	Metrotect	133	...	...	3.1	18.3
98	70	Mitsec♠	97	...	...	...	...
90	29	Midsumer	88	+2	...	1.1	12.2
28	14	Mining & Ald	26¼	...	0.5	2.4	...
515	368	Molins	513	+1	...	3.5	12.3
345	262	Morgan Cble	331	+1	...	4.8	17.4
184	134	Morris Ashby♠	174	...	...	3.9	13.2
38	18	Neepsend	34 †	...	1.0	3.7	45.6
73	34	Nestor-BNA	62	...	3.1	6.4	14.8
199	122	Nobo Gp	197	...	4.8	3.0	19.4
182	122¼	Norcros	176	-1¼	...	5.1	25.2
51	35	Novo Group	38	...	...	4.3	12.2
413	310	Nu-Swift	343	...	...	...	∞
81	36	Office Elec Mac	58	...	...	...	...
56	21	OMI Intl	56	+2	...	4.0	...
162	123	PCT♠	161	...	...	5.6	18.3
90	36	Pacer Systems♠	83	-1	...	5.2	...
138	87¼	Pentland	99	...	...	3.3	13.5
395	290	Photo-Me	327	+2	4.6	1.8	21.2
165¼	97¼	Pilkington	165¼	+3¼	...	3.0	...
91	68	Plansbrook	91	+3	3.1	4.3	14.4
154	125	Polypipe	134	...	2.1	2.0	18.1
42	15	Porter Chadbrn	15	...	...	3.3	6.9
14¼	5¼	Porth Gp♠	11¼	...	...	...	...
376	285	Powerscreen	304 †	...	...	2.8	15.8
20¼	16¼	Prospect Inds	19¼	...	0.7	4.9	9.6
65	33¼	RFS Group♠	55	...	2.3	5.2	12.2
95	73	Radiant Metal	85	...	...	...	...
186	77	Ramco Oil♠	177¼	+¼	...	0.7	59.4
913	636	Rank Org	909	+25	31.0	4.3	24.9
33	15	Ransomes	15	...	...	...	...
690	532	Reckitt Coim	658	-7	...	3.2	15.2
77	50	Record	70	...	3.6	6.4	34.4
7¼	2¼	Reece	4¼	...	...	...	...
269	131	Relyon	265	...	3.0	2.4	31.8
303	208	Renishaw	295	...	...	2.8	35.1
122	55	Renold	120 †	...	...	1.8	...
1751	1240	Reuters	1733	+18	22.1	1.6	28.7
83	24¼	Rexmore	79 †	...	2.0	3.2	...
188	91	Ricardo Group	175	...	...	4.1	24.8
76	58	Richard (Leics)	73	...	3.7	6.4	...
98	63	Richardson West	83	...	3.0	4.6	21.3
142	109	Ropner	122	...	8.2	8.5	17.3
136	97	-do- 'A'	118	...	8.2	8.7	16.7
38	14	Ross Gp	15	...	0.6	5.4	6.1
184	131¼	Rotork	169	+1	...	2.7	19.8
167	89	Rubicon	165	...	...	3.3	23.2
66	43	Russell (A)	62	...	...	1.0	...
34	15	SEP Indl	31 †	...	0.8	3.3	∞
1087¼	625	SKF 'B'	987¼	-12¼	...	...	...
60¼	39	Saville Grdn (J)	59	...	...	4.7	29.4
248	205	Scapa	218	...	...	3.3	16.1
238	189	Schuli	189	...	...	4.2	13.8
6¼	4	Scot Heritable	5	...	...	...	...
323	277	Scoda	287	...	...	...	...
1123	917	Securicor	1110	...	2.6	0.3	42.2
847	562	-do- 'A'	847	+2	2.6	0.4	32.2
745	465	Security Serv	737	+1	5.1	0.9	34.5
126¼	77	Senior Eng	120	+¼	...	3.3	20.0
361	278	Setan Health	320 †	+1	...	2.3	18.9
68	42	Sheldon Jones♠	63	...	...	...	...
166	88	Shiloh	136	-2	3.0	2.8	14.7
344	281	Sidlaw	287 †	-5	10.5	4.6	∞
584	427	Siebe	573	+7	...	2.3	21.5
383	230	Silentnight	350	+7	...	2.9	19.0
149	102	Sime Darby	142	...	...	3.8	∞
142	32	Simon Eng	94	...	...	...	...
298	180	Sinclair (Wm)	185	+2	...	4.7	14.4
47	35	Sih Hundred	36 †	...	...	5.2	...
164	134	Smith & Neph	148¼	+¼	...	4.0	16.5
513	383	SmithKline	399	+5¼	9.6	3.0	14.4
450	340	Smithkline Us	364	-5	...	3.3	12.3
441	320	Smiths Ind	438¼	+1¼	...	3.4	17.6
140	58	Sthn Bus	74	...	3.5	5.9	7.0
466	265	Spandex♠	466	...	...	1.8	20.7
660	300	Spear (JW)	510	-40	4.5	1.1	9.5
376	314	Spirax-Sarco	342	+2	...	3.4	21.5
145	44	Spring Ram	55	-4	...	0.6	18.1
270	201	Staveley	209	...	...	5.1	11.8
189	126	Sterling Ind	185	...	...	4.0	28.1
182	97	Suter	167	...	9.0	0.7	17.5
487	244	Swire Pacfc 'A'	462	-5	...	1.9	∞
7	2¼	Sycamore	3	...	...	...	...
78	53	Sykes-Pick	53	...	...	7.3	10.1
153	120	Sytsome	153	...	...	3.9	20.3
386	279	TI	378	...	...	3.6	25.8
32	12	TLS Range♠	26	...	...	1.2	...
337	211	TT Group	322	+1	...	2.6	19.8
237	201	Takare	227	...	...	1.0	19.8
868	618	Takeda Chem	739	-21	...	0.9	13.8
68	24	Tex Hldgs	61	...	...	...	...
109	70	Tinsley (E)♠	97	-1	...	7.0	14.9
240	150	Tilon♠	230	...	...	2.0	20.0
271	212¼	Tomkins	265	-4	...	3.5	16.9
112	67	Trafalgar H	96¼	-1¼	...	4.2	7.1
116	69	Transfer Tech	77	...	3.2	5.3	9.5
190	142	Triplex Lloyd	143	...	...	6.1	17.2
289	214	UniChem	271	+1	6.4	3.0	17.7
375	275¼	Unidare	365	...	...	5.4	18.3
7¼	1¼	Unigroup	4¼	...	...	...	...
1249	938	Unilever	1170 †	+10	22.2	2.4	15.9
8112¼	6362¼	Unilever (NV)	7662½	+37¼	...	2.7	12.6
915	513	VSEL	804	-6	...	4.7	8.7
12¼	6¼	Vernon	11¼	...	...	...	...
164	95¼	Vickers	151	...	...	1.9	...
387	243	Victaulic	282	...	...	3.7	12.0
454	283	Vinten	439	...	...	2.1	20.4
694	427	Vosper Thorny	650 †	...	...	3.2	15.7
48	41	WSP Hldgs	41	...	...	8.2	10.7
468	368	Wagon Ind	449	+1	...	4.9	19.5
98	71	Walker Greenbk	94	...	3.1	4.1	24.0
258	201	Wassall	255	-3	2.7	1.3	25.7
45	22	Wxford Wdgwd	45	...	...	...	...
384	252	Weir	285	-1	...	2.7	16.1
993	600	Wellcome	684	+8	...	3.2	14.5
23¼	16¼	Wellman	16¼	...	0.9	6.8	26.9
358	260	West Hithcare	337	...	...	1.4	∞
510	460	Whatman	480	-2	9.7	2.5	16.3
353	224	Whessoe	249	...	...	4.1	9.7
74	27	Whitecroft	72	...	...	...	...
10¼	4¼	Widney	10	...	...	...	...
130	44	Wilkes (James)	120	...	3.5	...	35.1
365	295¼	Williams Hldg	341	+3	12.5	4.6	17.8
46¼	17	Wilshaw	44	...	...	1.6	27.7
794	533	Wolseley	793	+5	...	2.1	23.4
155	125	Wood (Arthur)	155	...	1.5	1.2	56.5
46	35	Wyko	40	+1	...	3.1	...
59	38	Young (H)	53	...	3.3	8.0	∞

INSURANCE

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1993¼	1103¼	Alex & Alex	1225	...	...	5.4	...
2406¼	1787¼	Am Gen	1918¼	+62¼	...	3.8	...
63	30	Archer (AJ)	60	...	2.7	5.6	20.2
183	133	Berry Bch Nbl♠	162	...	...	4.2	12.5
148	118	Bradstock	136	...	5.2	4.8	16.8
498	359¼	Bdaonnic	460	-1	...	3.2	...
667	556	Com Union	625	+8	...	4.8	...
1750	1225	Dom & Gen	1748	...	...	1.6	23.1
50	18	FAI	45	-1	...	...	...
741	546	Gen Accident	675	+5	26.7	5.0	...
230	160	GRE	207	-5	7.1	4.3	17.2
412	283	Heath C E	391 †	-1	...	5.1	...
228	155	Hogg Gp	159	...	8.1	6.4	14.4
215	161	JIB Group	172	-2	...	5.5	17.6
546	408¼	Legal & Gen	532	-7	...	4.6	32.3
1129	768	Liberty Life	1039	...	...	10.2	20.3
468	403	Lloyds Abbey	449	-5	17.3	4.8	16.1
336	253	Lloyd Thomp	280	+1	6.7	3.0	17.4
395	224	Londn & Man	388	-5	14.7	4.7	28.6
443	321	Lowndes Lmb	431	+2	14.0	4.1	15.3
6743¼	5263¼	Marsh McLn	5375	-100	...	3.3	...
130	76	Oriel	124 †	...	...	5.0	...
72	50¼	PWS	68	...	4.0	7.7	9.4
376	282¼	Prudential	360¼	-9¼	...	4.3	23.9
1138	800	Refuge	1020	...	32.2	4.0	28.3
347	248	Royal	311	+3	...	6.0	53.6
204	150	Sedgwick	181	+2	...	4.1	22.1
261	119	Steel Burrill	145	-1	...	10.3	8.6
89	48	Sturge Hldgs	63	...	6.5	12.9	6.4
400	307	Sun Alliance	374	+3	14.2	4.8	...
88	50	Trade Indemnty	87	...	...	...	...
332	239	Transatlantic	321	+2	12.0	4.7	29.8
773	499	Utd Friendly	633	...	15.1	3.0	27.6
243	171	Willis Corroon	225 †	-3	...	3.7	48.3
21	13¼	Windsor	20	...	...	...	15.7

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1846	1548	Alliance	1832	-2	45.5	3.1	40.1
283¼	226¼	Amer Trust	276	-1	5.5	2.4	57.3
426	304	Ang & O'seas	416	+1	6.8	2.1	52.8
156	124	BZW Conv	154	+1	7.8	6.4	17.9
195	135¼	Bankers	193¼	+¼	3.6	2.4	53.2
336	264	Baring Tribne	336	+1	6.4	2.4	53.1
203	131	Berry Starq	203	...	2.2	1.4	66.0
110¼	96¼	Br Assets	107¼	-1¼	...	5.0	25.6
87	57¼	Br Empire Sec	86¼	...	0.9	1.3	∞
31	14	-do- Wnts	31	...	...	...	...
208	156	Br Inv	207 †	...	4.6	2.8	46.7
197	130	Contl Asset	192	+4	2.4	1.6	63.9
195	143	Derby Inc	153	+2	...	11.6	9.2
290	195	-do- Cap	290	...	...	...	...
87	62	Drayton Blue	87	+1	8.4	12.5	9.3
85	35	-do- Eng Ind	80	...	1.0	1.6	...
135	84	-do- Far East	126	+1	0.6	0.6	...
137	95	-do- Korea	137	+1	0.5	0.5	...
695	576	Dunedin Inc G	695	+6	...	4.6	32.0
100	76	-do- Japan	83	...	...	...	...
55	34	-do- Warrants	43	...	...	...	...
729	513	-do- Wwde	712	-1	9.5	1.7	∞
292	222	Dundee & Lon	289	...	9.0	4.0	∞
313	250¼	Edinburgh	311	...	8.5	3.4	34.0
291	183	Electra Inv	286	-1	6.8	3.0	39.0
191	141	Electric Gen	188	-¼	3.1	2.1	58.6
114	85	English Scot	113¼	...	...	...	...
315	205	European Amet	315	+1	...	2.3	40.9
133	77	Finsbury 'A'	128	+2	3.0	2.9	41.2
307	248	Fleming Amer	305	...	0.8	0.3	...
234	190¼	-do- Claver	224	...	...	3.0	44.1
340	212	Do Contl	323	+1	2.7	1.0	...
211	147	-do- Emrg	210	...	...	2.8	42.4
362	213	-do- F East	357	+1	1.1	0.4	...
336	246	-do- Fledg	336	...	3.0	1.1	...
118	93	-do- Hi Inc	109 †	+1	...	5.0	18.6
260	136	-do- Japan	218	...	...	0.3	...
294	230	-do- Merc	293¼	+1¼	6.7	2.9	62.8
307	212	-do- Oseas	301	...	4.2	1.7	63.0
274	203	Foreign & Col	271	-¼	...	1.6	73.8
121	56¼	-do- Emg Mkts	115 †	+1	0.2	0.3	∞
67	44	-do- Enterprise	67	...	0.4	0.8	...
233	164	-do- Eurotst	222¼	+2¼	...	0.7	...
131	87	-do- German	122	+2	0.5	0.5	...
319	191	-do- Pacific	297	+3	...	0.9	...
168¼	116	-do- Smaller	166	...	1.8	1.4	...
272	145	GT Japan	245	+1	...	0.6	...
172	65	Genl Cons Cap	172	+1	...	...	...
123¼	96¼	-do- Inc	110	...	...	9.6	11.4
166	115	Govett Am Smlr	166	...	...	...	...
116	94	-do- Emg Mkts	116	-3	...	...	...
351	184	-do- Oriental	350	...	0.9	0.3	...
286	207	-do- Strategy	272	...	...	3.1	38.0
414	340	Greenfriar	413	...	...	1.9	62.0
19	5	Gresham House	19	...	...	...	...
148	124	Inv Cap	148	...	...	4.3	28.4
97	77	I&S UK Smlr	96 †	...	2.8	3.6	26.8
212	156¼	Kleinwort Cht	211	...	5.0	3.0	41.1
250	176	-do- O'seas	241	+1	3.3	1.7	68.5
142	108	-do- Smlr	139	...	...	3.1	33.7
712	540	Low Debenture	711	...	18.5	3.3	35.5
205	164	Majedie	205 †	+1	...	3.0	38.3
286	221	Merchants	285	...	...	4.8	26.5
3343¼	1850	Merrill Lynch	3106¼	+6¼	...	...	...
521	383	Monks Inv Tst	518	...	...	1.6	65.4
141	105	Morg Gren Inc	141	...	4.5	4.0	∞
54	23	Do Warrants	51	...	...	...	...
60	39	Murray Euro	56	...	0.1	0.4	...
23¼	4¼	Do Wts	19	...	...	...	...
371	282	Murray Income	366	...	10.9	3.7	35.1
368	265	-do- Intl	364	-2	11.6	4.0	32.8
436	263	-do- Small	435	...	...	1.2	...
103	88	-do- S/C Inc	88	...	...	15.1	∞
135	73	-do- S/C Cap	126	...	...	...	...
3150	2290	-do- S/C Uts	3150	...	...	4.2	∞
158¼	142¼	-do- S/C DP	158¼	+¼	...	...	...
315	230	-do- Vent	308	...	...	4.4	24.9
93	68	Nwthmg Inc	91	...	6.7	9.4	16.8
346	249	O'seas Inv Tst	335	-1	...	1.2	...
484	395	Pacific Assets	468	+3	1.1	0.3	...
389	187	Do Warrants	371	+4	...	...	...
8300	7650	Personal Assets	8250	...	190	2.9	48.7
170	100	RIT Cap Ptnr	167	+2	1.1	0.9	...
127	108	River & Merc	122 †	...	9.2	9.4	12.2
465	350	Robeco	413	...	...	3.1	...
435	346	Rolinco	418	...	...	1.9	...
297	214	St Andrew Inv	286	...	7.5	3.3	38.5
160¼	131	Scot American	159	+¼	...	3.6	33.0
284	136	Scot Asian	276	...	...	...	...
785	225	do Warrants	733	...	...	...	...
83¼	63¼	-do- Eastern	82¼	...	1.5	2.3	54.2
231	183	Scottish	227¼	-¼	4.9	2.3	∞
235¼	178	-do- Mtge	224¼	-¼	4.0	2.2	58.3
102	71	-do- Value	102 †	+¼	1.8	2.2	...
1648	1390	Second Allnce	1629	+11	...	3.0	41.0
94	74¼	Secs Tst of Scot	93	...	3.2	4.4	30.7
163	109¼	Selective Asset	162	+1	1.2	0.9	58.3
38	14	Sphere Inv	36¼	-¼	3.1	10.5	11.9
172	112	TR Far East	170	-1	...	3.7	32.4
159¼	126	TR City Of Lon	159	+¼	...	3.8	34.6
193	110	TR Pacific	193	+1	0.3	0.2	...
37	17	TR Property	36¼	-¼	0.9	3.1	38.3
120	47	TR Tech Inv	117	+1	1.7	1.9	43.4
199	146	TR Smlr Cos	194	+1	...	2.4	44.9
363	283	Temple Bar	363	+1	13.2	4.6	27.4
111	69	Thrntn Asian E	110	...	0.5	0.6	...
79	54	Throgmorton	75	...	2.3	3.4	30.6
550	363	Throg Dual Cp	505	...	...	...	...
242	178	USDC Invest	234	...	4.5	2.4	43.0
118¼	76¼	Value Inc Tst	118	...	4.0	4.2	29.7
895	542	Whitbread Inv	895	...	16.5	2.3	53.9
226	181	Witan	225	-¼	5.6	3.1	39.4

LEISURE

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
475	269	Airtours	470	-3	7.7	2.0	16.6
64	42	Ald Leis	48	-1	...	7.8	15.6
465	194	Anglia TV	451	-3	...	2.6	20.9
103	63	Baldwin	86	...	4.6	6.7	11.7
284	192	Barr & W 'A'	254	-10	10.0	4.9	16.4
1245	930	Boosey Hwks	1155	...	22.0	2.4	17.3
158	90	Border TV♠	138	-2	...	3.0	12.4
16¼	4	Brent Walker	4¼	+¼	...	...	...
150	48	Bristol Scotts	133	...	...	...	...
9	2¼	Buckingham Int	5¼	...	...	...	...
292	72	Campari	74	...	...	8.7	14.8
234	171	Capital Radio	234 †	...	...	5.7	3.1
830	718	Carlton Comm	834	-7	...	2.8	19.6
234	158	Castle Comm♠	234	+1	...	4.5	15.5
2678	1615	Central TV	2650	-10	39.0	1.8	28.9
124	61	Chrysalis	103	...	...	...	...
392	470	Compass Gp	392	...	...	2.7	17.7
350	175	Eurocamp	216	-1	9.7	5.6	8.9
1180	268	Euro Disney	413	+15	...	2.8	...
8	2	Euro Leisure	2 †	...	...	...	...
38¼	18	Ex-Lands	34	...	...	1.3	...
390	245	Fairline Boats	287	...	10.5	4.6	...
378	232	First Leisure	271	...	6.2	2.9	18.8
590	298	GWR Gp♠	590	...	...	1.7	30.3
246	149	Grampian	238 †	...	6.5	3.4	16.5
22	4¼	Greenwich Com♠	16	...	...	...	...
100	19	HTV Group	100	...	...	...	44.4
76	30	Hi-Tec Sports	58	-1	...	4.8	...
12¼	5¼	Kunick	10	-¼	...	...	...
603	405	LWT Hldgs	585	+4	...	1.1	27.1
600	322	Man Utd	540	-5	...	4.5	21.8
48	7¼	Northern	39	...	...	...	...
148	59	Owners Abrd	80	+1	3.9	6.1	6.4
77	33	The Pelican Gp	69	...	...	2.0	16.2
170	55	Prism Leisure♠	170	...	...	2.4	15.8
42	16	Quadrant Grp	39	...	...	...	...
347	274	Radio Clyde♠	347	+7	...	3.1	27.2
208	132	Ramsdens (H)	208	+2	...	2.7	27.6
503	410	Scot TV	493	-4	10.3	2.6	24.3
65	37	Southern Radio	55	+3	0.7	1.8	22.9
236	168	Stanley Leisure	203	...	4.3	2.1	20.8
9	5¼	Sunleigh ♠	8	...	...	...	...
145	115	Sunset & Vine	129	...	...	3.5	3.4	19.7
420	345¼	Tanjong	345¼	...	...	0.5	18.9
2¼	1	Ticketing♠	2	...	...	...	...
117	84	Tottenham Hot	105 †	...	...	2.4	5.5
78	44	Trans World♠	67	+6	...	1.5	34.4
510	274	Ulster TV	507	...	12.0	3.0	15.6
109	62	Vardon	106	-1	0.8	0.9	25.0
22	11	Wembley	16¼	...	...	...	...
234	110	Yorkshire TV	179	-4	12.0	8.4	5.4
120	83	Zetters Gp	116	...	8.0	8.6	13.1

MINING

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
5900	1800	Am Gold	5375	-21¼	...	4.0	27.3
1625	1018¼	Ang Am Coal	1525	+6¼	...	5.9	8.1
2550	1125	Ang Am	2437¼	...	...	2.7	21.5
33	8¼	Anglo Pac Res♠	26	...	...	...	...
197	33	Blyvoors	176	-1	...	...	...
46	18	Bracken	36	...	...	...	∞
871	233	Buffels	746	+13	...	8.5	6.8
2¼	1	Butte	2	...	...	...	...
761	546	CRA	761	+8	...	2.6	26.2
43¼	11	Cluff Res	32¼	...	...	...	...
1406¼	762¼	De Beers	1312¼	-9¼	...	3.7	18.0
165	37¼	Deelkraal	131	+13	...	1.5	15.1
96	7	Doornfontein	64	...	...	...	...
913	388	Driefontein	792	+26	...	3.7	15.7
788	120	Durban	671	+6	...	...	...
201	42	E Rand Gold	136	-1	...	7.9	4.2
175	35	E Rand Prop	71	-5	...	...	...
65	16	Eastern Trans	50	...	...	5.0	10.7
604	117	Elandsrand	381	-11	...	3.1	9.3
1042	292	FS Cons	952	+17	...	5.0	12.5
80	8	FS Dev	54	+3	...	...	...
1675	725	GFSA	1450	+44	...	2.7	25.1
110	62¼	Gencor	109	...	...	8.0	12.4
64¼	35¼	GM Kalgoorli	53¼	+¼	...	2.5	21.9
22¼	5	Greenwich R 'A'	15	...	...	...	...
187	49	Grootvlei	141	+3	...	7.1	8.8
380	78	Harmony	315	+12	...	...	...
425	87	Hartebs	396	+22	...	6.9	15.7
16¼	8¼	Inocon	15	...	...	...	...
1010	491	Impala Plat	818	-2	...	3.4	28.2
13¼	6	Kenmare Res♠	9	...	...	...	...
1092	332	Kinross	1065	+4	...	5.3	∞
913	319	Kloof	654	+22	...	3.3	9.2
137	25	Leslie	109	+3	...	9.5	∞
314	13	Loraine	302	+2	...	...	...
950	620	Lydenburg	950	...	...	2.1	∞
116¼	80	MIM	104¼	...	...	2.1	50.8
1322	820	Minorco	1248	-10	...	3.1	14.7
154¼	91	Nth Brkn Hill	154	-¼	...	3.1	25.3
2712¼	612¼	Orange Free	2562¼	+62¼	...	5.0	20.7
748	607	RTZ	722¼	-20¼	...	4.7	20.4
156¼	108¼	Rand Mines	156¼	...	...	7.0	∞
671	150	Randfontein	578	-3	...	4.9	8.6
192	115	Renison	187	+3	...	2.3	19.3
1200	850	Rustnbrg	1025	...	...	3.9	∞
725	191	St Helena	616	-27	...	3.9	13.1
2166	475	Southvaal	1870	+43	...	3.0	34.1
119	18	Stilfontein	79	-4	...	7.9	14.4
201	58	Unisel	146	+3	...	4.5	∞
6300	1800	Vaal Reefs	5862¼	+200	...	3.7	10.6
703	154	Welkom	641	+6	...	5.1	30.0
640	26	Western Areas	594	-6	...	0.8	19.0
3000	587¼	Western Deep	2737¼	+71¼	...	2.2	13.3
283	176	Warrn Mining	268	+8	...	1.8	...
1035	329	Winkels	989	+12	...	3.8	∞
84	49	Zambia Copper	51	+1	...	...	...
68	18	Zandpan	61	...	...	7.2	20.3

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
258	233	Abbey Panels	248	...	...	...	...
135	95	Airflow Stream	115	...	3.0	3.3	11.1
153	78	Appleyard	121	...	...	5.4	...
335	203	Bletchley Mtr	303	...	...	3.8	15.4
192	120	Bostrom	180	...	6.0	4.2	31.8
468	165	Br Aerospace	409	+8	7.3	2.2	...
56	19¼	Burndene	53	...	...	2.7	14.1
388	303	Caffyns	348	...	11.5	4.1	70.4
15	4¼	Coverdale	13¼	...	...	...	...
143	98	Central Mtr♠	125	...	...	4.0	31.8
32	18	Cook (DC)♠	31	...	...	2.4	17.6
267	156	Cowie (T)	247	-1	6.6	3.3	18.8
141	86	Dag Motors	136	...	5.7	5.3	24.6
155	102¼	Davnprt Vern	145	...	...	3.5	18.3
330	155	ERF	323	...	2.0	0.8	...
145	92	European Mtr	136 †	...	...	3.4	19.1
406	308	Evans Halshaw	403	...	11.4	3.6	62.1
290	211	FR Group	236	...	...	3.8	11.0
4306¼	2843¼	Ford Motor	4193¼	-43¼	...	...	...
3706¼	2143¼	General Mtr	3600	...	...	1.5	...
75	38	Gowrings	56	...	2.0	4.5	...
258	85	Henlys	255	...	3.5	1.7	...
1056	769	Honda Motor	862	-9	...	1.0	...
35	15	Jacks (Wm)	35	...	...	...	...
108	66	Jessups	91 †	-2	4.5	6.2	...
176	97	Kwik-Fit	157	...	...	2.8	22.2
431	281	Lex Service	430¼	+3¼	...	3.3	23.5
164	85	Lookers	149	...	6.2	5.2	...
181	126	Lucas	178	+3	...	4.9	...
27¼	21	Malaya Grp	25¼	...	...	...	...
284	234¼	Pendragon	250	-1	...	3.2	20.5
190	101¼	Perry Gp	157	+1	...	5.7	...
190	108	Quicks Group	165	...	...	3.6	21.1
175¼	96¼	Rolls-Royce	173¼	+3¼	...	3.6	...
223	164	T & N	186¼	+1	...	7.3	26.6
256	163	Trinity Hldgs	243	...	...	2.8	22.5
175	125	Vardy (Reg)	166	...	...	3.2	23.2
253	121	Westland	245	+2	4.2	2.2	21.7

NEWS, PUBLISHERS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
198	103	Adscene	198	...	5.0	3.2	20.3
360	315	Black (A&C)	335	-3	13.5	5.0	13.7
608	290	Blenheim Gp	328	+8	...	3.6	12.2
370	275	Bristol	365	+1	...	4.2	32.6
£106¼	7775	Daily Mail	£105¼	-75	134	1.6	23.8
£106	7700	Daily Mail 'A'	£105¼	-50	134	1.6	23.8
355	251	Dorling Kind	318	...	...	1.3	28.8
5662¼	4337¼	Elsevier	5662¼	+25	...	1.7	19.2
402	322	EMAP	399 †	-3	...	2.5	24.6
1500	873	Euromoney Pb	1500	...	38.0	3.2	∞
264	170	Harrington K	189	...	4.7	3.1	15.4
317	155¼	Haynes Pub	317 †	+7	...	2.1	17.9
363	334	Hodder H'line	345	...	5.1	1.9	20.3
140	99	Home Counts	111	...	5.2	5.9	...
153	30	Intl Bus Comm	152	...	...	...	22.0
14	6¼	Intl Cm & Data♠	11	...	...	...	...
435	240	Independent	395	+5	...	3.2	21.3
580	395	Johnston Press	539	...	6.5	1.5	23.3
333	283	Metal Bulletin	333	...	8.2	3.1	23.5
186	88	Mirror Gp.	164	-1	...	...	...
515	297	News Corp	442	-2	...	0.3	...
301	169	News Intl	264	...	...	0.6	16.2
603	342	Pearson	596	-11	...	1.6	31.8
675	510	Portsmth Sund	640 †	...	...	1.8	17.7
800	618	Reed Int	798	+4	...	2.7	34.8
180	98	Southnews	180 †	...	...	1.6	33.3
171	90	Sterling Pub♠	164	...	...	2.3	18.1
423	328	Telegraph	406	+1	...	3.7	17.1
835	715	Thomson Corp	815	...	30.1	4.6	40.7
398	313	Trinity Intl	398	...	9.0	2.8	23.9
39	22	Unit Group♠	27	...	...	...	...
593¼	480¼	Utd Nwspprs	579	-5	...	4.6	16.1

OILS, GAS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
37	17	Aran Energy	33¼	-1¼	...	...	22.9
61	34	Arcon Intl♠	36	...	...	...	...
71	41¼	Aus Oil & Gas	63	-2	...	...	...
83	26	Aviva Pet	61	-3	...	...	...
16	5	Beverley	5¼	...	...	...	54.7
223	145	Br Borneo	199	-4	7.1	4.5	6.0
348¼	276	British Gas	347¼	+2	14.2	5.1	16.8
362¼	225	Br Petroleum	332	-3¼	8.4	3.2	26.1
1¼	1	Bula Resources	1¼	...	...	...	...
821	675	Burmah Castrl	780	+3	...	5.3	18.2
68	32	Cairn Energy	61	...	...	...	8.7
317	223	Calor Gp	312	-1	...	4.8	17.0
60¼	32¼	Clyde Pet	43	...	...	...	...
44	27	Copley Res	38	...	...	...	...
23¼	10¼	Edin Oil & Gas♠	17	...	...	...	...
521	397	Enterprise	447	+10	19.0	5.3	24.6
88	32	Exp Co Louis	34	...	...	...	...
34¼	18¼	Fairhaven Intl	22¼	...	...	4.8	8.1
10¼	4	Fortune	4¼	...	...	...	...
67	45	Gaal Pet	55¼	-¼	1.4	3.2	10.6
48	18	Gt Western Res	38	...	...	...	...
181	104¼	Hardy O & G	146	-1	...	0.9	13.6
46	18¼	Kelt Energy	40	...	...	...	...
195	109	LASMO	114	...	...	3.6	23.1
103	63	-do- Units	73	...	9.4	16.2	...
24	3¼	Mid Scot Res♠	4	...	...	...	...
50¼	34	Monument	55	+¼	...	...	...
9¼	4	New London	4¼	...	...	...	...
33	21	Nth Sea Assets	29	...	1.0	4.3	10.0
40	27	Oil Search	40	+2	...	...	...
19¼	11¼	Petrus	17	+1	...	...	...
162	99	Pict Pet	157	...	...	...	...
39¼	18	Premier	23¼	-¼	...	...	8.8
165	50	Presidio	158	...	...	...	...
410	290	Ranger	395	...	...	4.2	...
7312¼	5150	Royal Dtch Fl	6962¼	-37¼	...	4.6	...
4500	3600	Schlumberger	3837¼	-34¼	...	4.4	17.3
62	47	Seafield	50	...	...	2.1	...
727	515	Shell	701¼	+7¼	22.8	4.1	21.9
203	173	Sunrise Eng Sv	185	...	...	...	...
41	15	Triton Europe	16	...	...	...	...
15¼	6	Villiers Grp	14	...	...	...	...
208	135	Woodside	184¼	-2¼	...	1.9	...

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
145	120	AG Holdings	144	...	...	4.6	13.0
353	249	API	350	...	8.2	2.9	30.5
259	144	Arjo Wiggins	247	-5	...	3.3	39.9
543	408	Abbott Mead	536	...	9.5	2.2	28.1
40	13	Aegis Gp	18¼	...	...	...	...
212	118	Aspen Comst♠	130	...	...	4.7	11.8
20	7	BBB Designs♠	18	...	...	...	...
409	234¼	Bemrose	385	-2	...	3.8	16.8
30¼	7	Birkdale	8¼	...	...	...	...
155	118	Bunzl	136	-2	4.0	3.7	22.5
352	257	CIA Gp	348	-1	...	1.6	22.0
230	93	Capital Inds	130	-2	...	3.5	12.4
92	44	City of Lon♠	89	...	...	5.5	16.2
304	169	Cropper (Jmes)	304 †	...	1.2	1.3	29.4
9	6	Crown Comm	6	...	...	...	...
95	51	Delyn Group	87	...	1.6	2.4	11.7
120	84	Dolphin Pack	101	+4	4.5	5.6	34.9
87	42	Dudley Jenkins♠	78	...	...	5.0	17.7
15¼	10¼	Elswick	14¼	+¼	...	2.6	16.2
74	41	Fairway Group♠	72	...	3.2	5.6	21.2
349	271	Ferguson Intl	349	...	...	4.5	15.8
128	92	Ferry Pick	128	-3	...	6.5	34.5
108	74	Filofax♠	107	...	...	1.1	21.5
20	10¼	Fitch	11	...	...	...	...
154	69	Gibbon Lyons♠	150	-3	...	4.4	16.7
295	206	Gold Greenless	208	-1	8.3	5.0	14.8
41	17	Goodhead	24	...	0.0	0.3	∞
88	35	Hunterprint	36	...	...	...	...
185	136	Interurope	162	...	...	6.0	11.9
278	191	Jarvis Porter	272 †	...	...	2.2	25.4
32	15¼	Lopex	25	...	...	...	...
38¼	26	MDA	33¼	+1	...	...	...
346	175	More O'Ferrall	331	...	13.2	5.0	39.6
133	48	NMC Group	116 †	...	2.7	3.0	17.9
231	66	Osborne & Little	231	...	...	1.8	25.1
525	455	Portals	506	...	...	3.6	17.5
3¼	¼	Premier Hlth	2¼	...	...	...	...
286	159	Quarto	281	...	...	2.6	17.3
347	270	St Ives Gp	322	...	...	3.1	21.3
186	142¼	Saatchi	180	...	...	...	...
474	292	Sappi	336	...	...	9.8	6.4
32	11¼	Serif♠	15	+¼	...	...	...
32¼	14	Shandwick	25	...	...	...	...
347	294	Smith David	354	...	...	3.5	18.6
295	206	Smurfit (Jeff)	269	-7	...	1.6	6.5
88	45	Somic	86	...	2.5	3.7	34.8
246	183	Sun-Plus	207	...	8.4	5.1	18.5
28¼	16¼	Taylor Nelson	26¼	+1	0.3	1.6	22.0
104	38	VTR♠	98 †	...	...	4.8	14.7
106	40	WPP	92	...	...	1.4	3.5
179	62	Wace	175	...	...	0.7	...
265	203	Waddington (J)	233 †	-1	...	4.3	17.5
410	270	Watmough	376	-5	...	2.0	29.5
7	4	Westport♠	4	...	...	...	...
34	12	Whitney Mck♠	17	...	...	...	...
93	55	Wood (SW)	93	...	...	2.0	19.8

PROPERTY

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
116	41	Allied Lon	110	...	...	4.0	28.5
47	35	Arcadian	37 †	...	...	...	...
16¼	4¼	Ascot Hldgs	5¼	...	...	...	...
135	52	Asda	130	+1	...	2.1	13.7
152	88	Avonside	134	...	4.1	3.8	18.7
2637¼	2062¼	BCE♠	2325	+25	...	...	...
670	396	Bilton	640	...	18.9	3.7	23.1
110	23	Bourne End	97	...	...	1.7	...
236	150	Bradford	234	...	5.9	3.2	23.7
23	5	Bredero	13¼	...	...	...	...
449	166¼	Br Land	436	-2	...	2.0	39.7
348	140¼	Brixton	342	-1	...	4.3	19.2
89	42	Burford	89	...	...	1.8	...
187	99	Cap & Regnl♠	185	...	...	0.9	...
230	120	Cardiff Prop	230	...	2.6	1.3	...
593	196	Chesterfield	591 †	...	11.5	2.4	42.3
43	12	City Site Ests	33	...	...	...	...
31	12	Clarke Nickolls	31	...	...	...	...
548	300	Compco	300	...	12.9	5.6	65.2
53	34	Conrad Rbial GS	45	...	...	...	...
1423	818	Daejan	1423	+28	...	2.4	17.6
3¼	¼	Dares Estates	¼	...	...	...	...
129	53	Debenhm Twsn	124	...	...	3.0	34.2
12	4	De Morgan	8	...	...	...	...
180	76	Dencora	174	...	3.0	2.2	...
664	263	Derwent Hldgs	664	+1	8.7	1.6	...
45	10	Developments Sec	33¼	...	...	...	...
58	25	Dwyer	57	...	...	...	...
395	170	Estates Agency	395	...	...	2.4	46.9
22	7¼	Estates Gen	19	...	...	...	...
215	132	Evans Of Leeds	214	...	...	2.7	18.9
35¼	11	Five Oaks	32	+¼	...	...	...
65	30	Fletcher King	64	...	1.0	2.0	42.4
495	226¼	Frogmore	495	+1	...	4.0	23.9
232	97	Grainger	232	+9	5.2	2.8	51.9
233	116¼	Gr Portland	220	+2	...	4.5	21.3
34	7¼	Greycoat	34	+3¼	...	...	...
192	101	HK Land	174	-1	...	3.6	22.9
84	35	Hambro Cntyw	60	...	0.5	1.0	...
427	257¼	Hammerson	425	+2	10.0	2.9	43.0
663	245	-do- 'A'	398	+5	10.0	3.1	40.3
294	127	Helical Bar	294	...	...	2.1	10.6
39	19	Hemingway	33	...	...	...	...
132	56	Herring Baker	60	-1	3.7	7.8	15.1
153	133	Jermyn	138	...	...	...	...
769	435	Land Sec	757 †	+1	21.1	3.8	22.6
114	73	Lon Merch Sec	113	...	4.0	4.4	17.6
22¼	8¼	Lon & Metro	11	...	...	...	...
539	315¼	MEPC	523	...	...	4.9	35.8
9	5	McInerney A	6¼	...	...	...	...
155	90	McKay Secs	155	...	3.5	2.8	21.3
7¼	3	Markheath	3¼	...	...	...	...
79	12	Merivale Mre	79	...	...	...	...
5	5	Merlin Intl	5	...	...	...	...
48	29	Moorfield Est	46	...	...	...	...
1300	775	Mountview	1200	...	22.0	2.3	12.0
173	112	Muckfow (A&J)	173	...	...	4.4	26.9
46	30	Olives Prop	41	+1	...	...	...
10¼	1¼	Ossory Est	1¼	-1	...	...	0.5
172	88	PSIT	167	...	4.1	3.1	33.1
359	138	Peel	344	...	4.0	1.5	...
16	4¼	Power Corp	5	...	...	...	...
48	22	Property Trust	39	...	...	...	11.1
63	33	Raglan	35 †	+2	...	...	...
29	11	Regalian	25¼	+¼	...	...	...
135	110	Rowlinson Secs	135	...	1.5	1.4	36.2
50	16	St Modwen Prp	47	+1	0.9	2.4	35.8
78	39	Savills	78	...	...	1.6	30.9
112	33¼	Scot Met	91 †	...	...	2.1	∞
117	39	Shaftesbury	117	...	...	...	...
15¼	5	Shield	11	...	...	...	5.8
277	139¼	Slough Estates	274	...	...	3.7	19.2
92	56	Southend Prop	92	+3	...	3.3	...
39	16	Stanhope Prps♠	25¼	-¼	...	...	...
226	114	Tops Ests	225	...	2.1	1.2	80.0
137	79	Town Centre	133	...	...	3.2	23.8
95	43	Trafford Park	95	...	...	3.7	21.9
56	17	UK Land	32	...	...	...	...
12	4	Union Square	9¼	...	...	...	...
301	180	Warner	301	+1	10.4	4.3	27.5
219	168	Warnford	217	+7	7.5	4.4	15.7
8	2	Wereglade	2¼	...	...	...	...
95	34	Wates	92	...	...	...	...
76	40	Wood John Da	66	+1	...	...	...

SHOES, LEATHER

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
28	11	Automagic♠	28	...	...	...	...
183	84	Headlam	182	...	...	2.1	41.1
500	285	Lambert	320	...	13.2	5.2	7.8
100	44	Pittards	51	...	1.5	3.7	14.6
30	20	Strong & Fisher	21	...	1.0	6.0	5.8
218	89	Stylo	217	...	...	1.7	...
66	53	UK Safety	59	...	...	5.5	1.9

TEXTILES

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
521	408	Allied Text	495	+1	12.7	3.2	15.9
69	54	Beckman (A)	56	...	3.5	8.0	∞
41	21	Bolton Gp	26	...	...	...	...
171	141	Br Mohair	171	...	8.5	6.2	16.0
53	15	Chartwell♠	40	...	...	...	...
364	298	Claremont Ga	344	+1	7.5	2.7	21.5
601	522	Courtauld Text	540	-7	13.9	3.2	14.9
53¼	24¼	Cupid♠	26	...	...	...	...
248¼	131	Dawson	132	...	...	7.3	9.9
47	22	Drummond	40	...	...	...	...
84	65	Faupel♠	82	...	...	7.5	12.7
34	15	Foster (John)	20	+1	...	...	...
133	82	Gaskell	115	...	4.2	4.6	...
223	156	Hicking Pntcst	194	+5	...	2.6	15.0
90	45	Jerome (S)	68	...	...	0.4	...
422	249	Lamont	394	...	12.0	3.8	26.1
515	353¼	Leeds	506	...	8.5	2.1	∞
64	15	Lister	57	-1	0.1	0.2	...
122	73	Lyles (S)	88	...	...	4.7	...
215	89	Magellan	212	...	1.4	0.8	...
214	77¼	Parkland	198	...	...	1.1	...
102¼	82	Readicut	97 †	...	...	4.4	18.3
66	35	SEET	53	...	...	...	...
147	72	Sirdar	130	...	...	5.1	9.0
72	44	Stirling Gp	71	...	1.8	3.3	17.4
51	37	Stoddard	37 †	...	...	5.1	34.4
312	250	Tomkinsons	278 †	...	11.5	5.2	∞
62¼	32¼	West Trust	37	...	...	9.2	∞
240	126	Yorklyde	240	+4	...	2.8	15.7

TOBACCOS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
547	407	BAT	522	+4	...	4.6	15.6

TRANSPORT

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
529	349	Assoc Br Ports	518	-7	...	3.1	...
966	707	BAA	959 †	-2	...	2.2	23.8
433	249	Br Airways	430 †	...	...	3.1	19.3
110	56	Clarkson (H)	101	...	1.7	2.2	...
23	23	Davies Newman	23	...	...	...	...
515	332	Eurotunnel Uts	463	+8	...	...	...
82	44	Fisher (James)	79	...	0.5	0.8	20.9
217¼	147	IoM Steam	217¼	...	...	4.8	11.4
38	24	Jacobs (JI)	34	...	0.5	1.8	...
107	41	Lon O'Seas Frts	103	...	...	1.3	18.9
445	264	Mersey Docks	430	+4	...	2.6	29.3
271	181	Mall Express	255	...	...	3.5	26.4
284	230	NFC	252¼	-5	6.5	3.2	19.2
343	244	Ocean Group	318	-4	...	5.6	...
73	40	Ocean Wilson	70	...	4.0	7.1	12.7
676	504	P & O Dfd	605	-5	...	6.3	32.8
194	127	P & O 5 1/2%	188	...	...	3.7	...
629	448	Powell Duffryn	628 †	...	...	4.5	24.3
225	117	Seacon♠	211	...	...	3.2	13.3
163	112	Stagecoach	148	...	...	3.2	∞
81¼	31¼	TNT	73¼	...	...	...	...
773	624	Tibbet & Britn	728	...	12.6	2.2	27.9
382	37	Tiphook	57	...	...	...	...
298	222	TDG	274	-1	...	4.3	9.1

WATER

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
565	455	Anglian Water	548 †	-8	...	4.9	10.9
347	244	Mid Kent Hldgs	347	...	...	3.9	12.6
703	547	Northumbrian	690	-10	...	4.2	8.1
567	431¼	North West	547	-9	...	4.9	9.8
594	439	Severn Trent	578	-5	...	4.7	8.8
625	454	Sthrn Water	606	-9	...	4.4	10.1
1605	1225	Sth Staffs	1515 †	...	48.5	4.0	10.8
622	465	South West	600 †	-7	...	5.1	9.8
594	454	Thames Water	547	-7	...	4.9	10.1
681	506	Welsh Water	660	-3	...	4.5	6.7
693	536	Wessex Water	674	-3	...	4.0	10.1
595	473¼	Yorkshire W	576	-13	...	4.8	9.4

Source: Fingrat

♠ USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; † Ex rights issue; ‡ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; ∞ Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1993 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
102[illegible]	100¼	Treas 8¼% 1994	100¼	-¼	8.46	5.21
109¼	102[illegible]	Treas 14¼% 1994	102[illegible]	-¼	14.19	5.06
109¼	103¼	Exch 13¼% 1994	103¼	-¼	13.08	5.04
105[illegible]	102¼	Treas 10% 1994	102¼ †	...	9.76	5.04
110[illegible]	105[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1994	105[illegible]	-¼	11.80	4.99
105[illegible]	103[illegible]	Treas 9% 1994	103¼	...	8.69	4.97
111[illegible]	107[illegible]	Treas 12% 1995	107[illegible]	...	11.16	4.96
97¼	94	Gas 3% 1990-95	97¼	...	3.08	4.87
109¼	107[illegible]	Exch 10¼% 1995	107¼	+¼	9.50	5.14
116¼	113¼	Treas 12¼% 1995	113¼	...	11.20	5.12
120¼	116[illegible]	Treas 14% 1996	117[illegible]	...	11.93	5.23
125¼	121¼	Treas 15¼% 1996	122[illegible]	+¼	12.47	5.25
120¼	115¼	Exch 13¼% 1996	118	...	11.23	5.27
112[illegible]	108¼	Conv 10% 1996	112¼	+¼	8.91	5.40
122[illegible]	118¼	Treas 13¼% 1997	121¼	+¼	10.80	5.57
114¼	110[illegible]	Exch 10¼% 1997	114[illegible]	+¼	9.20	5.56
110¼	105¼	Treas 8¼% 1997	110[illegible]	+¼	7.93	5.63
132[illegible]	127[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	131¼	+¼	11.42	5.83
114[illegible]	109[illegible]	Exch 9¼% 1998	114[illegible]	+¼	8.55	5.82
108[illegible]	99[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	105[illegible]	+¼	6.87	5.75
105[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 7¼% B 1998	105[illegible]	+¼	6.87	5.76
102[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 1995-98	102[illegible]	...	6.61	5.14
130[illegible]	125[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	130[illegible]	+¼	10.74	6.11

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1993 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
139[illegible]	133[illegible]	Treas 15¼% 1998	139[illegible]	+¼	11.14	5.99
124[illegible]	118¼	Exch 12% 1998	124[illegible]	+¼	9.62	6.11
114[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 9¼% 1999	114[illegible]	+¼	8.27	6.06
126[illegible]	120[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	126[illegible]	+¼	9.66	6.20
119[illegible]	112[illegible]	Treas 10¼% 1999	119[illegible]	+¼	8.75	6.12
119[illegible]	112[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	119[illegible]	+¼	8.55	6.20
114[illegible]	106	Conv 9% 2000	114[illegible]	+¼	7.88	6.20
134¼	125¼	Treas 13% 2000	134¼	+¼	9.66	6.46
120	109[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	120	+¼	8.33	6.46
120[illegible]	108¼	Treas 9¼% 2002	120[illegible]	+¼	8.08	6.57
110[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	110[illegible]	+¼	7.23	6.59
124¼	109¼	Treas 10% 2003	124¼	+¼	8.06	6.57
127[illegible]	116¼	Treas 11¼% 2001-04	127[illegible]	+¼	9.04	6.71
82[illegible]	67[illegible]	Fund 3¼% 1999-04	82[illegible]	+¼	4.23	5.86
122[illegible]	105¼	Conv 9¼% 2004	122[illegible]	+¼	7.78	6.60
122[illegible]	105¼	Conv 9¼% 2005	122[illegible]	+¼	7.76	6.64
140¼	124[illegible]	Treas 12¼% 2003-05	140¼	+¼	8.90	6.83
109[illegible]	94¼	Treas 8% 2002-06	109[illegible]	+¼	7.33	6.46
133[illegible]	118[illegible]	Treas 11¼% 2003-07	133[illegible]	+¼	8.83	6.80
115¼	97[illegible]	Treas 8¼% 2007	115[illegible]	+¼	7.37	6.74
148¼	131[illegible]	Treas 13¼% 2004-08	148¼	+¼	9.10	6.85

LONGS (over 15 years)

1993 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
120[illegible]	101¼	Treas 9% 2008	120[illegible]	+¼	7.46	6.75
111[illegible]	92[illegible]	Treas 8% 2009	111[illegible]	+¼	7.16	6.77
122[illegible]	100¼	Conv 9% 2011	122¼	+¼	7.35	6.79
123[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	123[illegible]	+¼	7.31	6.79
90¼	70¼	Treas 5¼% 2008-12	90¼	+¼	6.09	6.38
110¼	89¼	Treas 7¼% 2012-15	110¼	...	7.01	6.71
113[illegible]	93[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	113¼	+¼	7.06	6.76
154¼	125[illegible]	Exch 12% 2013-17	153[illegible]	+¼	7.79	6.95
123[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 8¼% 2017	123[illegible]	+¼	7.10	6.76

UNDATED

1993 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
51[illegible]	38¼	War Ln 3¼%	51¼ †	-¼	6.80	...
35[illegible]	27[illegible]	Treas 2¼%	35¼	-¼	7.02	...

INDEX-LINKED

1993 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
136¼	131¼	Treas IL 2% 1994	136¼	...	...	...
203¼	194[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 1996	203¼	+¼	1.03	1.94
113	105[illegible]	Treas IL 4¼% 1998	113	+¼	1.34	1.99
173¼	159	Treas IL 2¼% 2001	173¼	+¼	2.37	2.74
170¼	155	Treas IL 2¼% 2003	169[illegible]	-¼	2.58	2.87
115¼	105¼	Treas IL 4¼% 2004	115¼	-¼	2.65	2.94
180[illegible]	159¼	Treas IL 2% 2006	180¼	-¼	2.66	2.89
165	144	Treas IL 2¼% 2009	164¼	-¼	2.82	3.02
171[illegible]	148[illegible]	Treas IL 2¼% 2011	170¼	-¼	2.88	3.06
142[illegible]	122[illegible]	Treas IL 2¼% 2013	141¼	-¼	2.91	3.07
153¼	130[illegible]	Treas IL 2¼% 2016	152[illegible]	-¼	2.95	3.11
148[illegible]	124[illegible]	Treas IL 2¼% 2020	147¼	-¼	3.01	3.14
124[illegible]	102¼	Treas IL 2¼% 2024	124	-¼	3.00	3.12
124[illegible]	103¼	Treas IL 4¼% 2030	123¼	-¼	3.02	3.14

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Warne sparks New Zealand collapse

FROM PETER ROEBUCK IN BRISBANE

ONE undeviating ball turned the third Test match on its head here yesterday. Before it, New Zealand could dream, after it they were doomed, for plainly the trial and tribulation of defeat in Hobart could not easily be forgotten.

New Zealand had lost Blair Pocock in McDermott's third over, a late outswinger being edged to Healy, but had otherwise batted capably on another slow pitch. Bryan Young had taken root, scoring his first run after 30 minutes at the crease and showing a broad bat, secure back-foot play and unfailing concentration.

Andrew Jones was also in occupation and seemed to have booked for bed and breakfast because the ball was not moving and his judgment was unerring. Australia had bowled accurately, though the bear-pit atmosphere that characterises their best cricket was missing, drained away by the baking sun and sluggish surface.

New Zealand had moved carefully to 96 for one, and only McDermott and the newly-mean Mark Waugh had been threatening. Tim May's deliveries had curled wide of the stumps and not made the return journey, so he was cut regularly. Warne had bowled slowly, flighting his leg breaks more than usual, but his deliveries rose so languidly that some thought they had a hangover.

Up strolled Warne for another over. Twice he pitched short and was punished. Up Warne wandered again, to deliver another long hop, or so it seemed. Jones stepped back and, too late, realised the ball's innocence was a façade, that it was, in fact, a deadly flipper. The ball skidded and crashed into Jones's stumps before the batsman had moved. Nobody with so vacant an expression ought to be capable of such deception.

A breach had been opened. Young's devoted innings ended minutes later when he spooned a hook, and though Rutherford and Greatbatch sparkled for a time their tenure never appeared certain. Rutherford played several crisp shots and used his feet regularly, if ineffectively, against Warne and Greatbatch showed the value of a left-hander batting down the order by carting leg breaks to the boundary. They added 69 frisky runs, but it could not last and it did not.

Needing a wicket, Australia recalled McDermott, returning to form to the relief of an enthusiastic crowd of just over 6,000. McDermott immediately obliged, Rutherford chipping to mid-wicket where Boon took a diving catch an inch from the ground. Australia needed no further encouragement, Greatbatch being caught behind as he failed to cover McDermott's cut and Patel tickling feebly to short leg. Cairns, fit again, was inhibited by this collapse and checked his shot as he moved down the pitch to Warne, lobbing a catch off bat and pad.

It was all going wrong at a terrible speed. Nor did poor Morrison prosper, departing disconsolately after the umpire, Peter Parker, the third debutant of the series, considered he had edged a leg break. There will be a grand ovation when Morrison scores his first run of the series.

Doull struck a couple of hearty blows against the spinners but pace was not to his taste; another edge meant that six wickets had fallen for 27 runs. Tony Blain, meanwhile, batted with customary defiance and, as usual, he was abandoned. He hit out in the closing overs — Australia bowled 97 in the day — but he could do little save temporarily raise the spirits of a declining team.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

B A Pocock c Healy b McDermott	0
B A Young c Healy b M E Waugh	38
A H Jones b Warne	56
*K R Rutherford c Boon b McDermott	39
M J Greatbatch c Healy b McDermott	35
D N Patel c Boon b May	1
C L Cairns c and b Warne	5
†T E Blain not out	20
D K Morrison c Healy b Warne	0
S B Doull c Healy b McDermott	10
R P De Groen not out	1
Extras (b 5 2, lb 3, nb 1)	6
Total (9 wkts)	208

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-96, 3-98, 4-167, 5-170, 6-174, 7-174, 8-178, 9-193.

BOWLING: McDermott 19-10-24-4, McGrath 16-5-35-0; S R Waugh 3-0-13-0; M E Waugh 10-4-14-1; May 21-7-51-1; Warne 29-12-65-3.

AUSTRALIA: M A Taylor, M J Slater, D C Boon, M E Waugh, *A R Border, S R Waugh, †I A Healy, S K Warne, T B A May, C J McDermott, G D McGrath.

☐ Australia will play a three-Test series in Pakistan in September and also play in a triangular one-day tournament after the series, Shahid Rafi, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP), said yesterday. South Africa will also take part in the triangular series.

Rafi also said the BCCP will discuss the hosting of the 1995 World Cup and recent allegations of ball tampering with David Richards, the chief executive of the International Cricket Council, who arrived in Pakistan on Thursday after visiting India and Sri Lanka.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Hakkinen to lead McLaren line-up

THE McLaren Formula One motor-racing team confirmed yesterday that Mika Hakkinen, of Finland, who replaced Michael Andretti, of the United States, for the final three races of the 1993 season, will lead its line-up in next year's world championship. Hakkinen, 25, who has signed a three-year contract, drove for Lotus in 1991 and 1992, taking part in 30 grands prix.

"Mika has shown us great character, an exciting turn of speed, a willingness to learn and level-headedness in difficult situations," the McLaren managing director, Ron Dennis, said. The team, which will use Peugeot engines next year, said it would contest the championship with three drivers. The two others will not be identified before January. Hakkinen qualified in the top five in each of his three races for the team, finishing third in the Japanese grand prix.

Bryant overlooked

BOWLS: Rumours that David Bryant, of Clevedon, was poised to return to the England indoor side at the age of 62 proved unfounded when the teams for this winter's international trial were announced yesterday. They reveal a renewed emphasis on youth and though Bryant will continue as non-playing captain, his club colleague, Pip Branfield, has been dropped, along with Bill Hobart, of Boston. Wales have nominated the five women who won the team silver medal at the Atlantic Rim outdoor championships to represent them in next year's Commonwealth Games, and have recalled Janet Ackland, the 1988 world champion, and Ann Dainton.

Television time

FOOTBALL: The United States' first game in the World Cup finals in June has been moved to 11:30am (15:30 GMT) to accommodate the ABC television network and its coverage of the US Open golf tournament. Football and television officials, speaking on the condition they not be identified, said this week that the only way to televise the game, scheduled for June 18 at the Pontiac Silverdome near Detroit, was to start it before noon. Fifa, the game's world governing body, has tried to ensure that most matches will be played during prime viewing hours in Europe.

Hooper escapes

CRICKET: Indifferent bowling by the Sri Lankan Board President's XI enabled West Indies to reach 93 for one on a rain-restricted first day's play in their three-day match in Galle yesterday. Carl Hooper struck 53 from 75 balls with two sixes and five fours after being dropped at 30 when Atapattu put down a chance at deep extra cover off the left-arm spinner, Wijetunga.

☐ Hampshire have signed the former England and Middlesex fast bowler, Norman Cowans, 32. Alan Walker, 31, formerly of Northamptonshire, has joined Durham.

Coaching expansion

ATHLETICS: The Chinese coach, Ma Junren, whose stable of elite women runners surprised the world with their record-breaking feats this year, is to train non-Chinese athletes next year. Ma said yesterday that he had been asked by athletic authorities in Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea to train runners at his Liaoning centre in China, which is due to open next year. It will be the first time non-Chinese will experience his unorthodox methods, which include high-altitude training and an exotic diet.

Hammond's defence

CYCLING: Roger Hammond, the junior world cyclo-cross champion last year, defends his lead in the third round of the National Trophy series tomorrow. Both he and Steve Douce, the British professional champion, who is in second place, have been ill in the past week and may be below their best for the race at Leicester. Hammond leads Douce 76-73 with the national amateur champion, Peter Stevenson, who lives in Belgium, a further four points behind, although he is not racing tomorrow.

Hue Williams recovers

RACKETS: Mark Hue Williams and John Prenn each reached their appointed seeding position, winning their quarter-final matches in the Lacoste British amateur championship at the Queen's Club, though achieving their victories in contrasting styles (Sally Jones writes). Prenn, the former world champion, looked comfortable and in command against the fluent Malburian, Ally Robinson, but Hue Williams trailed by two games to one in his match with Rupert Owen-Browne before recovering to win.

Symbolism central as England A open tour



Andrew Longmore reports from Johannesburg on a match with a significance beyond cricket

THE England A team will observe a minute's silence before the historic opening match of their South African tour in Alexandra today in honour of the "Cricket for Peace" development programme. By a happy coincidence, one of the players in the Transvaal Invitation squad is called Peace, another Justice. They are twin brothers. Watching from the boundary will be Harmony, one of the helpers on the township programme in Johannesburg.

As the England team has already been told, this is an occasion on which symbolism is more important than the result and wonder is the only appropriate emotion.

After ten years of hard labour by Dr Ali Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board, and his team, victory will be won on the first ball of the first match played by an official touring team in the townships. Besides the Nkutha twins, the home side will include three other players from the Alexandra township, including the captain, Geoff Toyana, who has been preparing by reading a book on Ian Botham, and Walter Masemola, a strapping fast bowler.

"This is a big day in South African sport," Alan Wells, the England vice-captain and the only member of the side who toured with the last unofficial team three years ago, said. "It will be a fun day and everyone wants it to go off successfully. The players are aware of the significance of it."

So are Justice and Peace, whose careers began only six years ago when, by chance, they attended one of the programme's early coaching clinics. "It is important not just for me but for everyone who has been involved and for the next generation of players," he said. Most of Masemola's friends have never seen a live game of cricket, let alone watch him play.

Even before the England team set foot on the artificial pitch of the Alexandra Oval, on which they have decided not to risk the Kent fast bowler, Martin McCague, the sight of a township team matching the best of the public school area sides has been a testimony to the work of the past decade. Most of the Under-19 Cricket Development XI took up cricket in their mid-teens and their progress has been both startling and frustrating.

Take Errol Nkosi, for example, a fast bowler who watched the West Indies and Pakistan on television without knowing the game they were playing was called cricket. Only when his teacher forced him to go to a coaching clinic did he discover not just what the game was but that he was naturally rather good at it.

Even then, it took the death of his father four years ago for the interest to be pursued. "My father banned cricket because he wanted me to play football," Nkosi said. "But when he went I made up my own mind. Lots of people play football and I had no chance of making it. But perhaps cricket can be my game. Now I think about it the whole time."

Nkosi's mother died four years before his father and, having run away from one grandmother, he now lives with the other in a one-room house in Meadowlands, one of the poorest districts of Soweto. All his equipment and his transport is paid for by the development programme.

"I dread to think what might have happened to him if he did not have his cricket," Imtiaz Patel, development manager of the Transvaal Cricket Board, said. "Cricket gives him a goal."

Each convert, though, only highlights the mass of untapped talent which hangs around every dusty street corner in the townships. Success has bred frustration, about the lack of facilities, opportunities, cash and an understandable sense of desperation that the process of turning raw ability into finished cricketer should be so slow. A black player has yet to break into the state or international sides, which, in turn, brings added pressure from sponsors and officials to push players through before they are ready and heightens tension with the traditional breeding grounds of South African cricket. Years of prejudice has not dissolved magically overnight and the selection of the schools representative side will be as delicate as any of the constitutional talks.

No amount of money or dedication has been able buy time and tradition. "The problem is that there is no cricketing culture in the balck people," Patel said. "Their parents don't talk about cricket in the house. When this generation pass on the tradition to their children, then we will see real progress." Today, Justice and Peace will start their own tradition. Let's hope it is not an omen that Peace is twelfth man.

ENGLAND A: H Morris (capt), M Lathwell, A Dale, A Wells, M Love, D Cork, S Rhodes (wkt), R Croft, M Bicknell, D Gough, M Ilott.

SHAUN BOTTERILL



Alan Wells, left, the England A vice-captain, conducts slip practice yesterday

Waqar pace maintains pressure on Zimbabwe

ALISTAIR Campbell and David Houghton gave courageous batting performances as Zimbabwe battled to stay in the first Test match against Pakistan in Karachi yesterday. Zimbabwe, playing their first Test in Pakistan, finished the third day on 179 for four, still 45 runs away from their follow-on target after Pakistan had declared their first innings at 423 for eight.

The tourists ran into early trouble against the pace of Waqar Younis, but Campbell and Houghton, the two most experienced batsmen in the side, prevented a serious collapse with a valuable third-wicket stand of 61. The partnership was broken just before tea with the departure of the left-handed Campbell, who was trapped leg-before by the leg spinner, Mushtaq Ahmed, for a well-made 53. He was at the crease for almost three hours and hit seven fours.

Houghton hit eight fours in a fighting 46 before he fell to Waqar, the new Pakistan captain. Waqar finished the day with figures of three for 55, trapping both Houghton and Mark Dekker leg-before with balls that swung late. His other victim was the opening batsman, Grant Flower.

PAKISTAN: First innings

Aamer Sohail b Peall	63
Shoaib Mohammad c A Flower b Rennie	81
Inzamam-ul-Haq c A Flower b Brandes	21
Javed Miandad low b Brandes	70
Basit Ali c A Flower b Whittal	36
Asif Mujtaba c Dekker b Brandes	4
†Rashid Latif not out	68
*Waqar Younis c Peall b G W Flower	13
Mushtaq Ahmed c A Flower b Peall	18
Tauseef Ahmed not out	21
Extras (b 15, lb 12, nb 1)	28
Total (8 wkts dec)	388

Ata-ur-Rehman to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-95, 2-134, 3-217, 4-268, 5-280, 6-305, 7-332, 8-363.

BOWLING: Brandes 35-4-106-3; Streak 29-6-77-0; Rennie 32-6-90-1; Whittal 12-4-26-1; Peall 41-10-89-2; G W Flower 6-2-8-1.

ZIMBABWE: First Innings

G W Flower b Waqar	24
M H Dekker low b Waqar	5
A D R Campbell low b Mushtaq	53
D L Houghton low b Waqar	46
*†A Flower not out	21
G J Whittal not out	12
Extras (b 2, lb 15, w 1)	18
Total (4 wkts)	179

G Bruk-Jackson, S G Peall, J A Rennie, D H Streak and E A Brandes to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-71, 3-132, 4-153.

BOWLING: Waqar 21-4-55-3; Ata-ur-Rehman 8-1-16-0; Mushtaq 22-7-60-1; Tauseef 16-6-29-0; Shoaib 1-0-1-0; Aamer 1-0-1-0

Smithies celebrates year of breakthrough

BY ALEX RAMSAY

IT HAS been a hectic few months since the day, in August, on which Karen Smithies captained the England women's cricket team to the World Cup at Lord's. The famous victory over Australia has launched both the team and the game towards celebrity status.

On Monday, the Lords Taverners will break with their own traditions by playing host to the women's team at their annual Christmas lunch. Normally a men-only occasion to send the men's team off on their winter tour, the 14 women have been invited in recognition of their achievements in the summer.

The timing of the World Cup had its part to play in the reaction to England's victory and Smithies is the first to admit it. On the day Graham Gooch resigned having lost the Ashes, Smithies was lifting the trophy after beating, of all teams, the Australians. The obvious comparison was made and Smithies plans to prove the success was no flash in the pan.

"We worked hard for five years for that win," she said. "We worked on every aspect of our game from psychology to physiology to diet. The dedication was a credit to the whole team and now we have tasted victory we want it again. The platform is there for us to build upon and we must keep the momentum going." That momentum includes persuading a touring side to visit next summer before England's tour of India and the European Cup in 1995. The women seem to have convinced the public that cricket is not just about fast bowling and brute force at the crease.

"At first, I don't think the men knew what to make of us," Smithies said. "Because of our lack of physical strength, we were regarded as not equal to the men, but you have to take women's cricket as a separate game. It's more to do with the art of cricket than the power." Having played alongside Mike Gatting, Mike Atherton and David Gower, the players and public alike are beginning to take Smithies seriously.

The England captain has found herself to be something of a local heroine, the talk of the regulars in the betting shop in Colville where she works as deputy manager and recognised in the street in her home town of Ravenstone. She takes it as a sign that women's cricket is getting a new and positive image.

The only disappointment so far this year was the team's failure to win anything in the ITV Panasonic sports awards last month, beaten in the team category by Manchester United. "Any award we can win will help the sport," Smithies said. "In the long run, I don't think the award will mean as much to Manchester as it would have done to us."

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

MANILA: Asian championships: Men: 400m: I Ismail (Qatar) 45.55sec; 1,500m: S H Kim (S Kor) 3min 38.80sec; 4x100m relay: China 39.47. Long jump: N Asahara (Japan) 8.10m. Women: 400m: Mu Yuqiang (China) 51.23; 1,500m: Yan Wei (China) 4:17.78, 10,000m: Wang Junxia (China) 34:19.32; 4x100m relay: China 43.84. Javelin: Li Zhang (China) 62.14m.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final series: Group A: TSV Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 105, Guildford Kings 97 (Pearson 17, Duncan 10); Benetton Treviso (It) 73, Olympiakos (Gr) 79. Group B: Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 91, Pau-Orthez (Fr) 80

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Houston 94 New York 85, Seattle 105 Washington 95; Phoenix 102 Detroit 101, Utah 100 Indiana 87; Minnesota 103 Golden State 91.

BOWLS

COATBRIDGE: CIS Insurance Scottish indoor singles championship: Final: A Marshall (Glenfield) bt M Marshall (Edinburgh), 7-1, 7-4, 7-5

YETTON TROPHY (women's inter-club championship): Second round: Sunderland 102 Park View 53, Thornaby 73 Darlington 76; Swanton 99 Huddersfield 79; Blackpool Borough 46 Blackpool NH 103, York 68 Richardsons 77, Scunthorpe 61 Hull 97; Louth 72 Lincoln 97; Boston 102 Sleaford 56, Melton Mowbray 71 Barwell 79; City of Ely 95 Wisbech 76; Peterborough 64 Cambridge Chesterton 93, Rushden 78 Northampton 70; Lawson Park 72 Wellingborough 86; Norfolk and Norwich 81 Roundwood 84; Co Arts B 86 Co Arts A 107, Diss 59 Ipswich 76; Sole Bay 75 Marina 82; Colchester 74 Essex County 76, Oxford City and County 66 Chiswell 79; Riverdan 87 Herts 66; Rugby 98 Birmingham 68, Westlecot 60 Bentham 88; Richmond 81 King George 84, Cambridge Park 93 Hounslow 70; Crystal Palace 83 Sutton 84, Croydon A 105 Croydon B 70; Stour 74 Oyster 78; Folkestone 61 Prince Arthur 77, Royal Tunbridge Wells 69 Dartford Stone Lodge 89; Preston 81 Eastbourne 70, Egerton Park 84 Worthing 71; Wealden 76 Worthing Pavilion 57, Banister Park 76 Solent 75; Arun 116 Isle of Wight 44; Dolphin A 72 Dolphin B 70; Exonia 78 Teignbridge 52, West Cornwall 108 Plymouth Civil Service 58; Newquay 120 Bodmin 55

CYCLING

ZURICH: Six-day race (after fourth day): 1, B Risi and K Betschart (Switz), 189pts; 2, E de Wilde (Bel) and J Voggarby (Den), 132. 3, one lap behind, A Bain and P Bincoletto (It), 215; 4, three laps, U Freuler and W Stutz (Switz), 185; 5, six laps, D Rüegg and P Vetsch, 135.

FOOTBALL

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Luton 0, Crystal Palace 1

Late results on Thursday

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Third round, replay: Merthyr 1, Swansea 2.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool 3, Sheffield Wednesday 3; Newcastle 1, Nottingham Forest 0; Aston Villa 1, Blackburn 0.

FRENCH LEAGUE: St Etienne 1, Nantes 1.

SPANISH SUPERCUP: Final, first leg: Real Madrid 3, Barcelona 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 7 New York Islanders 3, Florida 2 Buffalo 1, Pittsburgh 2 New Jersey 2, Toronto 5 St Louis 4, Los Angeles 3 Anaheim 2, Philadelphia 6 Vancouver 3

GOLF

TARPON SPRINGS, Florida: Mixed team event (US unless stated): 63: T Seckerman and D McHaffie. 65: T Purtzer and B Daniel, D Forsman and D Mochrie, K Perry and S Stanhauer. 66: E Dougherty and S Hamlin, M Standly and V Skinner. 67: M Springer and M McNamara, R Gamez and H Allredsson (Swe), B Komm and C Walker, R Mollbe and R Jones. 70: M Hubert and L Davies (GB), M Dawson and J Stephenson (Aus). 73: B Bryant and P Johnson (GB)

THE LAKES, Sydney: Greg Norman Holden Classic: Second round (Australia unless stated): 135: C Strange (US), 68, 67. 137: S Elkington, 67, 70. 139: J Wade, 70, 69. 141: J Kay (Can), 68, 73, B Ogle, 70, 71; P Devenport (NZ), 69, 72; G Moorhead (NZ), 71, 70. 142: M Colendro (US), 73, 69; P Mokoney, 72, 70. 143: M Harwood, 72, 71; R Hughes, 72, 71; A Lyle (GB), 74, 69; P Senior, 72, 71; V Singh (Fiji), 72, 71. 144: J Senden, 75, 69; R Davis, 74, 70; S Owen (NZ), 72, 72. Other British and Irish scores: 156: C Moody (GB), 76, 79. 160: E O'Connell (Irel, 81, 79

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: Lacoste British amateur championship: Quarter-finals: W Boone bt G Barker, 15-7, 15-2, 15-7, T Cockroft bt J Spurling, 15-4, 15-5, 5-15, 0-15, 15-3, M Hue Williams bt R Owen-Browne, 15-10, 3-15, 0-15, 15-6, 15-5; J Prenn bt A Robinson, 15-11, 15-7, 15-4.

RUGBY LEAGUE

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Great Britain 28, France 16.

SWIMMING

PALMA, Majorca: World short-course championships: Finals: Men: 400m freestyle: 1 D Kowalski (Aus) 3min 42.35sec; 2 A Kaswo (Fin) 3.42.98, 3 P Palmer (GB) 3:45.07. 100m breaststroke: 1 P Rogers (Aus) 59.56sec; 2 R Dekker (Hol) 59.95, 3 S Van Neerden (US) 1:00.08. 4 N Gillingham (GB) 1:00.23. 200m backstroke: 1 T Schwenk (US) 1:54.19, 2 L Bianchini (It) 1:55.08, 3 S Maione (Bel) 1:55.58 British placing: 7 A Rockwood (GB) 1:56.91 4x200m freestyle: 1 Sweden 7.05.92; 2 Germany 7.08.63, 3 Brazil 7.09.38

Heats: Non-qualifiers: Men: 100m breaststroke: Heat three: 6, G O'Toole (Ire), 1min 3.13sec. 200m backstroke: Heat three: 6, A O'Connor (Ire), 2.03.31, 7, J Mitchell (Ire), 2.07.73. Women: 50m freestyle: Heat two: 6, S Doyle (Ire), 26.57sec. 200m freestyle: Heat three: 6, M Madine (Ire), 2.04.07. 200m breaststroke: Heat two: 5, J King (GB), 2.35.02. Heat three: 7, M Hardiman (GB), 2.33.27. 100m backstroke: Heat one: 6, J Deakins (GB), 1.03.69. Heat two: 3, K Osher (GB), 1.01.78.

SQUASH

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division north: Reebok Nottingham 1, Patrick West Warwicks 4; Keyline Barnham Broom 2, Mitsubishi Potters Bar 3. Positions: 1, West Warwicks, played 3, 20pts, 2, Barnham Broom, 4, 11; 3, Potters Bar, 3, 10; 4, Duffield, 3, 8; 5, Nottingham, 3, 7. First division south: Princes 2, Havering 3; Denplan Winchester 4, Bingham Bromley Town 1. Positions: 1, Winchester, 4, 23; 2, Havering, 3, 13; 3, Lexden, 3, 10; 4, Bromley, 3, 7; 5, Princes, 3, 3.

TENNIS

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia: Challenger tournament: Men: Quarter-finals: L Rohmann (Ger) bt D Musa (Ph), 6-3, 6-3; T Ho (US) bt M Blackman (US), 6-4, 2-6, 7-6; K Thorne (US) bt S Matsuoka (Japan), 6-7, 6-4, 6-3, A Moroz (Ger) bt D Nainkin (SA), 7-5, 6-1. Doubles: Semi-finals: Nainkin and K Ullyett (SA) bt J Bates (GB) and A Moroz (Ger), 6-3, 6-4

TOWCESTER

THUNDERER

12.35 Red Jack. 1.05 Fardross. 1.35 Ned The Hall. 2.10 River Bounty. 2.40 Boston Rover. 3.10 Yes Man. 3.40 Rock Diamond.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT PATCHES) SIS

12.35 BLUE ROSETTE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,793: 2m) (10 runners)

1	103-	SOMERSET DANCER 151 (G,S) R Ingram 6-12-4	D O'Sullivan
2	43P-	RED JACK 161F (CD,S) J Akehurst 4-11-1	R Supple
3	2-60	SOLID 4 (B,D,6) D Cosgrove 5-10-10	D Walsh (5)
4	-560	ALICE'S MIRROR 46 (V,S) T McGovern 4-10-6	W McFarland
5	4URO	WILTOSKI 46 (CD,F,G) R Ledger 5-10-3	Mrs M Ledger
6	/523	FUSSY LADY 15 (D,F) Mrs I Mellte 6-10-2	L Harvey
7	5-40	BAYBEEJAY 47F (D,F,G) R Brotherton 6-10-0	D Bridgewater
8	42P0	ABSOLUTLEY FOXED (I) B McMahon 4-10-0	T Wall
9	-600	TREASSOWE MARINER 10 (B) G Moore 5-10-0	J Osborne (7)
10	-0R9	BROTHERLYAFFECTION 23 R Hollinshead 4-10-0	Gary Lyons

9-4 Fussy Lady, 4-1 Somerset Dancer, 5-1 Red Jack, 7-1 Alice's Mirror, 8-1 Baybeejay, 10-1 Wiltoski, 12-1 Absolutely Foxed, 14-1 Solid, 20-1 others.

1.05 BARNSDALE COUNTRY CLUB NOVICES CHASE (£3,210: 3m 1f) (13)

1	1FF1	FARDROSS 15 (G) K Bailey 7-11-12	N Williamson
2	5UP-	BLAKEINGTON 218 R Mitchell 7-11-0	A Tory
3	50/2	DARK OAK 14 J Curtis 7-11-0	L O'Hara
4	U	FLORIDA SKY 22 J Upson 6-11-0	R Supple
5	U62P	JUDGES FANCY 17 (B,G,S) N Tolston-Davies 9-11-0	D Bridgwater
6	4F-2	LOBRIC 9 (F,G) J Jenkins 8-11-0	B Powell
7	-453	LOOSE WHEELS 23 (V) Mrs P Sly 7-11-0	R Marley
8	/PU	LOWICK LAD 25 Mrs M Long 6-11-0	S Keightley
9	P5/4	PEATY GLEN 7 M Tompkins 8-11-0	R Campbell
10	0-4F	ROWING IT (J) Gilbert 9-11-0	C Bonnet-Wells (5)
11	PU/F	TEE OU 17 (F) D Nicholson 9-11-0	Mr G Hogan (7)
12	3	CRAIGSTOWN 24 Mrs L Jewell 5-10-13	S Hodgson
13	00-P	GREENHILL GO ON 11 Mrs M Long 8-10-9	R Rowell

15-8 Fardross, 11-4 Judges Fancy, 6-1 Dark Oak, 7-1 Lobric, 8-1 Loose Wheels, 14-1 Florida Sky, Craigstown, 20-1 others.

1.35 ANTHONY SIMPSON MEP BLUE ROSETTE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,041: 2m 5f) (7)

1	-421	NED THE HALL 9 (D,S) K Bailey 5-11-5	N Williamson
2	6-4	GENERAL WOLFE 28 T Forster 4-10-12	B Powell
3	0-06	ROTHINGEOTTROUBLE 24 Mrs H Parrott 9-10-12	V Slattery
4		SURY BAY J Upson 4-10-12	R Supple
5	0	GUSTING GIRL 67 N Tolston-Davies 4-10-7	D Bridgwater
6	05/5	PLATINUM SPRINGS 23 J King 6-10-7	L Harvey
7	42-2	RUSSINSKY 19 G Bravery 6-10-7	R Beggan

15-8 Ned The Hall, 5-2 Russinsky, 100-30 General Wolfe, 5-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: O Brennan, 15 winners from 51 runners, 29.4%; Mrs J Pitman, 13 from 49, 26.5%; Mrs I McKie, 14 from 64, 21.9%; M Tompkins, 3 from 15, 20%; P Dalton, 3 from 15, 20.0%; D Nicholson, 8 from 50, 16.0%.

JOCKEYS: M Brennan, 15 winners from 43 rides, 34.9%; R Beggan, 10 from 48, 20.8%; L Harvey, 10 from 77, 13.0%; D Bridgwater, 5 from 40, 12.5%; B Powell, 6 from 49, 12.2%; R Supple, 7 from 63, 11.1%

2.10 WELL TO DO HANDICAP CHASE (£5,970: 3m 1f) (10)

1	4-55	RIVER BOUNTY 21 (D,F,G,S) J Upson 7-11-10	R Supple
2	0-11	TORT 19 (CD,G,S) P Dalton 9-11-1	L Harvey
3	5324	SMOOTH ESCORT 16 (V,G,S) Mrs D Haine 9-10-7	D Bridgwater
4	-432	PINK GIN 31 (F,G,S) M Hammond 6-10-3	M Williamson
5	14-1	POSTMAN'S PATH 23 (C,G,S) T Forster 7-10-1	B Powell
6	3/12	INVASION 14 (V,F,G,S) O Brennan 9-10-0	M Brennan
7	-136	TAMMY'S FRIEND 30 (BF,F,S) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-0	I Lawrence
8	2/0-5	GUILDWAY 45 (F,G) N Tinkler-Davies 10-10-0	Mr M Rowell (7)
9	38P-	LEAGAURE 190 (C,S) T Casey 11-10-0	J McCarthy (5)
10	P-66	WOODLANDS GEMMRE 17 (CD,F) P Pritchard 8-10-0	D Fortt (7)

11-4 River Bounty, 3-1 Postmans Path, 5-1 Tort, 7-1 Smooth Escort, 8-1 Pink Gin, 9-1 Invasion, 14-1 Tammy's Friend, 20-1 Leagaure, 25-1 others.

2.40 BERKELEY BURKE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,557: 2m 110yd) (6)

1	PSP-	FILE CONCORD 248 (G,S) Mrs J Pitman 9-12-0	I Lawrence
2	1-12	BOSTON ROVER 29 (CD,BF,F,G,S) O Brennan 8-11-6	M Brennan
3	1324	THE GREEN STUFF 18 (CD,BF,F,G,S) J Upson 8-11-1	R Supple
4	433-	REJOINUS 236 (S) A Stringer 8-10-11	M Williamson
5	43P-	JIM VALENTINE 241 (F,S) D Winde 7-10-7	P McDermott
6	U-53	BLUE BUCCANEER 23 (CD,S,S) T Forster 10-10-1	L Harvey

9-4 Boston Rover, 3-1 The Green Stuff, 7-2 Blue Buccaneer, 5-1 Rejoinus, 7-1 File Concord, 10-1 Jim Valentine.

3.10 PENMAN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £1,980: 2m 5f) (14)

1	35-1	OCEAN LEADER 42 (F) Mrs D Haine 6-11-5	D Bridgwater
2		CATS RUN J Upson 5-10-12	R Supple
3		CHEMDATS J Curtis 5-10-12	L O'Hara
4	0	RITH IN LINE 24 T George 5-10-12	Mr C Vigors (7)
5	22	FOREST FEATHER 10 (BF) C Weedon 5-10-12	C Bonnet-Wells (5)
6	0-4	MONKTON 28 T Forster 5-10-12	B Powell
7	-344	OATS N BARLEY 30 P Redford 4-10-12	I Shoemark
8	58-0	OTTOMAN EMPIRE 35 O Brennan 5-10-12	M Brennan
9	/0A	REFERRAL FEE 17 (F) J Mullins 6-10-12	L Harvey
10		ROMANY CREEK G Balding 4-10-12	S Hodgson
11	00/3	TALBOT 24 C Egerton 7-10-12	A Procter (5)
12	0-P	TRIMAGE 28 T Forster 5-10-12	R Farrant (5)
13	3	YES MAN 24 (BF) Miss H Knight 4-10-12	M Williamson
14	4	CURLY SULLIVAN 19 R Allehurst 5-10-7	R Beggan

2-1 Talbot, 3-1 Yes Man, 5-1 Forest Feather, 7-1 Ocean Leader, 8-1 Referral Fee, 10-1 Oats N Barley, 20-1 Monkton, Romany Creek, 25-1 others.

3.40 PENMAN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £1,964: 2m 5f) (14)

1	4P-5	BUCKSHOT 28 J Gifford 5-10-12	E Murphy
2	U06-	DIVINE CHARGE 232 N Gaselee 5-10-12	I Lawrence
3	1/	EASTERN RIVER 687 (S) T Forster 7-10-12	B Powell
4	P	FORGIVE THE FOLLY 18 T Forster 5-10-12	R Farrant (5)
5	05-	GREEN'S GAME 292 N Mitchell 5-10-12	D Skyrme
6	4-	HECTOR'S RETURN 305 R Brotherton 5-10-12	V Slattery
7		RICK THE BEAK J Upson 4-10-12	R Supple
8		ROCK DIAMOND G Balding 7-10-12	F Leonard
9	P0-U	STORMING RUN 83 P Dalton 5-10-12	R Marley
10		SWINGING SONG J Wharton 6-10-12	B Dalton
11	54-	TOP BRASS 224 K Bailey 5-10-12	N Williamson
12	4-00	TOTHEWOODS 44 N Tinkler-Davies 5-10-12	D Bridgwater
13		COUNTRY STORE A Jones 4-10-7	W McFarland
14	06-0	LAY IT OFF 28 J O'Neill 4-10-7	L Harvey

9-4 Eastern River, 3-1 Top Brass, 5-1 Buckshot, 6-1 Divine Charge, 10-1 Rock Diamond, Nick The Beak, 16-1 others.

TOKE هكذا من الأصل

مكنز الاهرام

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Yorkshire Gale, right, taking command from the front-running Spikey in the Pond Novices' Chase at Sandown

Travado faces stern test in two-mile showpiece

By Julian Muscat

TRAVADO, unbeaten in his six completed outings over fences, will attempt to deliver a message of crushing superiority to his six rivals in the Mitsubishi Shogun Tingle Creek Chase over two miles at Sandown today.

The seven-year-old's trainer, Nicky Henderson, has taken a bold approach with his majestic chaser, who has to give weight all round to some proven specialists over this distance. Among them are Deep Sensation and Cyphrate, first and second respectively in the Champion Chase at Cheltenham in March.

Travado has made Deep Sensation look leaden-footed in their two recent encounters this term, prompting the handicapper to put 10lb between them as a result. "He has got to continue his improvement, which he has done so far," Henderson said of Travado yesterday.

"Vis-a-vis Deep Sensation, we have a hell of a task with just that one horse, never mind the others," he added. "I am hopeful, but good horses have turned up. It is a proper race, well worth going along to watch."

Indeed it is, especially with Deep Sensation's trainer, Josh Gifford, quietly fancying his chances of upstaging his younger adversary. "The handicapper has been very fair and it should be interesting," he ventured. "Deep Sensation has been given every chance but he has never run his best races at Sandown."

The Tingle Creek is about more than just two horses, however, and Andy Turnell, trainer of Storm Alert, has adopted an air of quiet confidence. Turnell clearly expects Storm Alert to be among the best two-milers by the season's end, and said: "If he is to make up into anything like the horse I hope he will be, he'll have to run a good race off 11 stone."

David Nicholson is also optimistic about Waterloo Boy, who is looking for a treble in this race. Nicholson, who has won the Tingle Creek four times in all, has been encouraged by Waterloo Boy's last schooling session, on Thursday, after the horse was afflicted by a fibrillating heart at Exeter last time.

But all eyes will be on Travado, who had two of today's rivals, Sybillin and Valiant Boy, behind him when he won the Arkle Chase in March. His rise through the ranks has been little short of meteoric; so much so that the trainers of those opposing him are fully aware of the significance of today's encounter.

Should they all fall prey to Travado's ability, there will be precious little prospect of them taking their revenge in the Champion Chase in March, which is run at level weights.

Gifford warmed up for the showdown with a double at Sandown yesterday, although punters would have been less than ecstatic with his work. In the opener, Gifford sent out the 14-1 chance My Wizard to upset his better-fancied stable companion Brief Gale, the even-money favourite.

"What do you want me to say?" Gifford smiled in the winner's enclosure. "Brief Gale just got chopped for a bit of speed and she wants further. But the winner is probably a good horse himself."

Half-an-hour later, it was Yorkshire Gale's turn to upset the hot favourite, Brackenfield, in the Pond Novices' Chase over an extended three miles.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Beyond Our Reach
(3.30 Sandown)

Next best: Monsieur Le Cure
(3.05 Chepstow)

Whispering Steel on Haydock trail

WHISPERING Steel looks likely to bid for a fifth course success in the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock next Wednesday. The Hennessy Gold Cup fifth is one of six entered in the three-mile race, won last year by stable companion, Twin Oaks.

Even allowing for the absence of Party Politics, due to run in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow today, the event could cut up further because Morley Street has the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham next Saturday as an alternative target.

Joanie Richards, wife of the trainer, Gordon, said: "Whispering Steel seems to have come out of the Hennessy well, but we will have to see how he is next week. There is a bit of rain about at the moment and that would help him."

Gambling Royal, Plenty Crack and Very Very Ordinary are the other entrants.

At Hereford yesterday, the Cheltenham trainer, Nigel Twiston-Davies, and his jockey, David Bridgwater, were in excellent form, landing a 96½-1 treble with Man Of Mystery, Texan Baby and Visaga. All three winners made every yard of the running.

Another successful trainer-jockey combination was the Whitcombe-based David Elsworth and Paul Holley, who collected an 8-1 double at Exeter through the impressive Big Beat and Absalom's Lady.

☐ The Clive Brittain-trained Village Eagle finished fourth in the listed Prix Isonomy at Evry yesterday.

☐ Kingmambo, the winner of last year's French 2,000 Guineas and Prix du Moulin, has been retired to stud and will stand at Lane's End Farm, Versailles, Kentucky.

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

12.50 Cab On Target
1.20 **MOVE A MINUTE** (nap)
1.50 Baydon Star
2.25 Leotard
2.55 Travado
3.30 Pipers Copse

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.25 **ARABIAN BOLD.**

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM IN BACK STRAIGHT (CHASE COURSE) GOOD TO SOFT, GOOD TO FIRM IN BACK STRAIGHT (HURDLES) SIS

12.50 EWELL CHASE (£6,125: 3m 110yd) (3 runners)

101 11F1P-1 BARTON BANK 35 (D,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 7-11-10 ... A Maguire 99
102 1211-22 CAB ON TARGET 17 (BF,F,G,S) (N Hurst) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-10 ... P Niven 97
103 PP SPARTAN FLAPJACK 4 (D Bassett) D Bassett 7-10-10 ... Miss L Blackford —

BETTING: 4-5 Barton Bank, evens Cab On Target, 150-1 Spartan Flapjack.

1992: COUNTRY MEMBER 7-11-2 L Harvey (9-4) A Turnell 7 ran

1.20 ESHER NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (C4)
(£6,035: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

201 41 MOVE A MINUTE 23 (D,G) (Mrs T Brown) J Gifford 4-11-10 ... D Murphy 90
202 0-1F3 MUSKORA 24 (D,BF,G) (N Savery) P Hobbs 4-11-10 ... P Niven 94
203 44-0111 KYTTON CASTLE 14 (D,G,S) (Joint Partnership) R Dickin 5-11-8 ... D Meredith (3) 91
204 50/6-310 MULCIBER 22 (D,BF,F) (Mrs P Treadwell) G Harwood 5-11-7 ... M Perrett 93
205 0040-31 SUPER COIN 37 (D,F) (G Brookes) R Lee 5-11-5 ... A Maguire 99
206 53-1 DOMINANT FORCE 33 (F) (Mrs P Jubert) R Hannon 4-11-5 ... J Osborne 89
207 10433 GAMEFULL GOLD 7 (G) (G Brown) S Dow 4-11-2 ... H Davies 84
208 02-3F53 CRACKLING ANGELS 8 (P Jones) R Buckler 6-10-13 ... M A Fitzgerald 89
209 0605-11 SWIFT CONVEYANCE 49 (D,F,G) (J Mitchell) W Kemp 4-10-12 ... S McNeill 98
210 6P0-053 ROSS GRAHAM 15 (C Hansberry/A Wilcox) Mrs B Waring 5-10-9 ... G Morgan 96
211 4-14451 FRANKUS 9 (F,G) (H S Group) S Mellor 4-10-7 ... N Mann 92

BETTING: 3-1 Kytton Castle, 4-1 Move A Minute, 11-2 Gamefull Gold, 6-1 Muskora, Super Coin, 7-1 Mulciber, 8-1 Dominant Force, 10-1 Swift Conveyance, 16-1 Ross Graham, Frankus, 20-1 Crackling Angels.

1992: BIG BEAT 4-11-4 P Holley (4-1) D Elsworth 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

MOVE A MINUTE beat Ramstar 10l in a 13-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, good). MUSKORA 7¾l 3rd of 14 to Old Bridge in a novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good).
KYTTON CASTLE beat Brodessa 7l in a 7-runner handicap novice hurdle at Aintree (2m f, good). Previously, beat Russinsky 2½l in an 11-runner handicap novice hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft) with GAMEFULL GOLD (7lb better off) 4l 3rd. MULCIBER beat Khalidi 1l in a 6-runner novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, firm) on penultimate start. SUPER COIN beat Will's Bounty 4l in a 14-runner handicap novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good to firm) with FRANKUS (2lb better off) 9¼l 5th.
DOMINANT FORCE beat Glencarrig Gale 3l in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good to firm) with GAMEFULL GOLD (3lb better off) 17l 8th.
Selection: KYTTON CASTLE

1.50 WESTMINSTER INSURANCE HENRY VIII NOVICES CHASE (C4)
(Grade II: £9,150: 2m) (4 runners)

301 213-111 BAYDON STAR 15 (D,G,S) (Mrs S Robins) D Nicholson 6-11-7 ... A Maguire 99
302 21/24P-1 ONE MORE DREAM 28 (CD,F) (M Jackson Bloodstock) G Balding 6-11-4 Richard Guest 83
303 0340-22 MARLINGFORD 15 (G,S) (Miss J Seaton) Mrs J Jordan 8-11-0 ... D Morris 77
304 4P-1122 STRONG VIEWS 15 (F,G,S) (Ms M Horan) J White 6-11-0 ... M A Fitzgerald 89

BETTING: 4-6 Baydon Star, 100-30 Strong Views, 5-1 One More Dream, 8-1 Marlingford

1992: WONDER MAN 7-11-0 R Dunwoody (8-15 fav) D Nicholson 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

BAYDON STAR beat STRONG VIEWS 10l in 6-runner grade II Hurst Park Novices Chase at Ascot (2m, good). Previously beat Ghia Gneuiagh 8l in a 4-runner novice chase at Cheltenham (2m, soft).
ONE MORE DREAM beat French Charmer 3½l in a 6-runner novice chase over course and distance (good to firm).
Selection: BAYDON STAR

2.25 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (C4)
(Grade III: £20,750: 2m 110yd) (12 runners)

401 112232- KILCASH 329 (CD,G,S) (J Whelan) P Hedger 5-11-10 ... M Richards 83
402 206-105 HIGH BARON 15 (D,F,S) (Miss C James) R Alner 6-11-3 ... S Earle 85
403 1310-14 LAND AFAR 28 (D,G,S) (T Ford) J Webber 6-11-2 ... W Marston 92
404 2021-11 LEOTARD 21 (D,G,S) (C Heath) O Sherwood 6-11-1 (4ex) ... J Osborne 91
405 133-5 MAAMUR 28 (G) (Park Industrial Ltd) D Burchell 5-10-13 ... A Maguire 92
406 21/134-6 JIMMY THE GILLIE 28 (D,F,G,S) (N Robinson) S Christian 7-10-10 ... J McCarthy (5) 80
407 6311-21 ARABIAN BOLD 7 (D,F,G,S) (Sheikh Amin Dahlawi) N Henderson 5-10-9 M A Fitzgerald 99
408 P/0-2113 TAROUDANT 28 (G) (G Farndon) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-7 ... P Niven 90
409 12- HIGHBROOK 28F (D,G) (N Cook) M Tompkins 5-10-3 ... D Murphy 88
410 05430-3 EDEN'S CLOSE 28F (V,D,BF,G) (Mrs M Barwell) M Tompkins 4-10-1 ... M Perrett 89
411 1126-40 ZAMIRAH 28 (D,F,G) (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 4-10-1 ... T Jenks (5) 89
412 1311/01 SUNSET AND VINE 35 (D,G,S) (Sunset & Vine) S Dow 6-10-0 ... H Davies 83

Long handicap: Sunset And Vine 9-11.

BETTING: 3-1 Leotard, 7-2 Land Afar, 5-1 Sunset And Vine, 6-1 Arabian Bold, 8-1 Maamur, Highbrook, 10-1 Taroudant, 12-1 High Baron, 25-1 Kilcash, Eden's Close, 33-1 Zamirah, 50-1 Jimmy The Gillie.

1992: VALFINET 5-10-2 J Lower (5-4 fav) M Pipe 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

KILCASH neck 2nd of 25 to Glencloud in grade I Ladbroke Handicap Hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, yielding). LAND AFAR beat Royal Derbi 2½l in a 4-runner conditions hurdle at Kempton (2m, good) on penultimate start. LEOTARD beat Nahar 5l in a 7-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft). ARABIAN BOLD beat Winnie The Witch 3½l in a 5-runner conditions hurdle at Warwick (2m, good). TAROUDANT 8l 3rd of 19 to Triple Witching in a handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good) with LAND AFAR (3lb better off) neck 4th, MAAMUR (4lb better off) ½l 5th, HIGH BARON (6lb better off) 15th and ZAMIRAH (10lb better off) 17th. HIGHBROOK 2l 2nd of 7 to Lemon's Mill in a novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good). SUNSET AND VINE beat Change The Act 1l in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good).
Selection: LEOTARD

2.55 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TINGLE CREEK TROPHY (C4)
(Grade II: limited handicap chase: £15,550: 2m) (7 runners)

501 8111-11 TRAVADO 11 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Emmer) N Henderson 7-12-0 ... J Osborne 95
502 1216P-P WATERLOO BOY 32 (CD,F,G,S) (M Deeley) D Nicholson 10-11-12 ... A Maguire 98
503 111113- SYBILLIN 263 (D,F,G,S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-11-9 ... P Niven 98
504 2211-22 DEEP SENSATION 11 (D,F,G,S) (R Eliot) J Gifford 8-11-4 ... D Murphy 99
505 43225P- CYPHRATE 221 (D,G,S) (Atlas Smith & Jones) M Pipe 7-11-0 ... M Perrett 95
506 1113-14 STORM ALERT 21 (CD,G,S) (Lt Col W Whetherly) A Turnell 7-11-0 ... S McNeill 92
507 P4114-U VALIANT BOY 29 (D,F,G,S) (R Chadwick) S Kettlewell 7-10-7 ... S Lyons (5) 81

Long handicap: Valiant Boy 9-13.

BETTING: 2-1 Storm Alert, 9-4 Travado, 3-1 Deep Sensation, 8-1 Sybillin, 12-1 Waterloo Boy, Cyphrate, 33-1 Valiant Boy.

1992: WATERLOO BOY 9-12-0 R Dunwoody (11-4) D Nicholson 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

TRAVADO beat DEEP SENSATION (10lb better off) 7l in 4-runner grade II Peterborough Columns Chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Last season, beat Wonder Man 1l in 6-runner grade I Waterford Castle Arkle Chase at Cheltenham (2m, good) with SYBILLIN (5lb better off) 20l 3rd and VALIANT BOY (21lb better off) 8l 4th.
WATERLOO BOY won this race for the last two years, last year beat DEEP SENSATION (13lb worse off) 2½l (5 runners) (soft). SYBILLIN best effort last season when beating DEEP SENSATION (6lb better off) 10l in 11-runner grade II Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot (2m, soft) with CYPHRATE (14lb better off) 15l 4th.
STORM ALERT 13½l 4th of 15 to Bradbury Star in grade III Mackeson Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, soft).
Selection: TRAVADO (nap)

3.30 DOUG BARROTT HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,968: 2m 6f) (16 runners)

601 41/0/32 PIPERS COPSE 15 (F,G,S) (Mrs P Locke) G Harwood 11-11-13 ... M Perrett 92
602 5042-00 HOLY JOE 7 (F,S) (T Pilkington) A J Wilson 11-11-12 ... A Maguire 94
603 F32F-45 SENDAI 15 (F,G,S) (Mrs M Tufnell) J Gifford 7-11-9 ... D Murphy 98
604 PP/022/ CASH IS KING 553 (D,F,G,S) (M Myers) N Henderson 9-11-7 ... M A Fitzgerald —
605 F00-011 BONANZA 16 (D,F,G,S) (D Needham & Partners) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-6 ... R Hodge 90
606 P/53- THE DECENT THING 226 (C,G,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 10-11-0 ... R Davis (3) 95
607 612U4-2 POLISHING 28 (F,G,S) (J Gordon) M Hammond 6-10-13 ... P Niven 95
608 10/12- RIVA 332 (F,S) (Ahmed A Hussein) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-10-12 ... H Davies 89
609 F21FF-5 WICK POUND 10 (B,D,BF,G,S) (K Britten) J Old 7-10-11 ... T Grantham 90
610 1132/61 DARK HONEY 19 (G,S) (R Sayer) S Dow 8-10-8 ... A Dicken (5) 95
611 3410-63 ROSGILL 18 (F) (Brigadier Racing) J White 7-10-8 ... Richard Guest 99
612 18121/F WELSH SIREN 9 (D,F,G) (R Dawes) K Bailey 7-10-5 ... S McNeill 91
613 F050-23 EMERALD SUNSET 28 (G) (Mrs G Dawson) R Simpson 8-10-4 ... D Gallagher 98
614 21P1/0-3 GOLDEN MOSS 18 (D,G,S) (Mrs D Hunnisett) J Ffitch-Heyes 8-10-1 ... M Richards 95
615 13631-6 SURE PRIDE 24 (F,G) (J Smith (Chislehurst) Ltd) A Moore 5-10-0 ... J Clarke (7) 93
616 543/3U-1 BEYOND OUR REACH 21 (D,G) (Hunt & Co) R Hodges 5-10-0 ... J Osborne 87

Long handicap: Sure Pride 9-12, Beyond Our Reach 9-12.

BETTING: 5-1 Dark Honey, 6-1 Bonanza, 13-2 Riva, 7-1 Welsh Siren, Beyond Our Reach, 8-1 Sendai, 10-1 Holy Joe, Polishing, 14-1 Pipers Copse, Rosgill, 16-1 Wick Pound, Emerald Sunset, 20-1 others.

1992: RUN UP THE FLAG 5-10-11 D Murphy (9-4 fav) J Gifford 7 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
A Turnell	4	14	28.6	N Mann	5	14	35.7
G Harwood	4	14	28.6	D Murphy	12	52	23.1
D Nicholson	17	60	28.3	J Osborne	15	75	20.0
J Old	3	12	25.0	M Perrett	7	37	18.9
M Pipe	16	70	22.9	A Maguire	6	42	14.3
K Bailey	7	33	21.2	H Davies	5	48	10.4

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER

12.30 Bond Jnr
1.00 Mere Class
1.30 Cariboo Gold
2.05 Jodami
2.35 Czar Nicholas
3.05 Monsieur Le Cure
3.40 Mr Clancy

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES) SIS

12.30 ANC NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,564: 2m 110yd) (21 runners)

1 32-1233 BILLY BORU 24 (D,F,S) (R Butler) R Simpson 5-11-5 ... M Hourigan 99
2 A N C EXPRESS (ANC Owners Group) J King 5-11-0 ... R Greene —
3 1-3 BOND JNR 28 (S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 4-11-0 ... R Dunwoody 83
4 0- BOX OF DELIGHTS 318 (M Lilley) R Dickin 5-11-0 ... W Humphreys —
5 2-2 CONEY ROAD 43 (T Eaves) D Elsworth 4-11-0 ... P Holley —
6 40 FERNY BALL 18 (The Clumpy Group) A Dunn 5-11-0 ... C Maude —
7 1350/4U- FUN MONEY 358 (F) (G Phillips) A J Wilson 6-11-0 ... M Dwyer 71
8 31-3 GAYLOIRE 115 (G) (E Harvey) O Sherwood 4-11-0 ... Mr A Harvey (7) —
9 6- HOLD YOUR RANKS 255 (R Frost) R Frost 6-11-0 ... R Darke (7) —
10 0-0P ITS GRAND 24 (Avon & West Windows) R Manning 4-11-0 ... A Rannigan (7) —
11 5 MR WILBUR 51 (P Tylor) R Frost 7-11-0 ... J Frost —
12 03220-6 PECTORUS 80 (B,BF,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 5-11-0 ... M Foster 90
13 5-0 RIFFLE 28 (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 6-11-0 ... J J Brown (7) —
14 42- ROYAL GARDEN 268 (B Keay) G Balding 4-11-0 ... J Railton —
15 50 SOLO GENT 52 (A King) A Jones 4-11-0 ... G Upton —
16 52- SPUFFINGTON 283 (J Clopet) J Gifford 5-11-0 ... E Murphy 89
17 064P/P UNEXIS 19 (D Mullen) S Mellor 8-11-0 ... A Thornton (3) —
18 0-0 ALICE SPRINGS 9 (Mrs J Greed) S Knight 4-10-9 ... Mr T Greed —
19 6 ANOTHER LOAN 21 (Church Racing Partners) S Mellor 6-10-9 ... A Procter (5) —
20 00- CELTIC EMERALD 226 (Mrs M A Eckley) R Eckley 5-10-9 ... D Gallagher —
21 058F-00 STORMY SUNSET 17 (Mrs J Dennis) W Dennis 6-10-9 ... Mr N Moore (7) 59

BETTING: 7-2 Billy Boru, 4-1 Bond Jnr, 7-1 Gayloire, 8-1 Pectorus, Coney Road, Spuffington, 12-1 Royal Garden, 14-1 Riffle, Fun Money, 16-1 others.

1992: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

1.00 JACK BROWN BOOKMAKER HANDICAP CHASE (BBC1)
(£4,500: 3m 2f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 P/1/30- CUSHINSTOWN 364 (G,S) (S Lucey) M Pipe 10-12-0 ... R Dunwoody 92
2 14300-2 WILLSFORD 18 (B,G,S) (A Kaplan) Mrs J Pitman 10-11-9 ... C Llewellyn 98
3 11111P- STIRRUP CUP 263 (D,G,S) (Elite Racing Club) C Egerton 9-11-8 ... J Railton 95
4 312-111 MERE CLASS 18 (D,F,S) (Miss M Talbot) C Brooks 7-11-7 ... M Dwyer 99
5 F212P-0 DIRECT 18 (CD,S) (H Kaye) J Edwards 10-10-10 ... R Davis (3) 94
6 1/5PP-44 PHARDAH'S LAEN 21 (D,F,G,S) (T Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 12-10-6 ... R Farrant (5) 88
7 31U0-23 CYTHERE 18 (CD,S) (K Carr) J Gifford 9-10-4 ... E Murphy 94
8 333-104 SUNBEAM TALBOT 23 (C,D,G,S) (Mrs R Legouix) A Jones 12-10-2 ... G Upton 98
9 25134-2 SUNLEY BAY 17 (B,BF,G,S) (Mrs M Barber) P Nicholls 7-10-0 ... R Greene 97

Long handicap: Sunley Bay 9-10.

BETTING: 7-4 Mere Class, 7-2 Willsford, 9-2 Stirrup Cup, 7-1 Cythere, 8-1 Sunley Bay, 12-1 Cushinstown, 16-1 Sunbeam Talbot, 20-1 others.

1992: DIRECT 9-10-0 D Tegg (6-1) J Edwards 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

CUSHINSTOWN 3½l 2nd of 4 to Bonsal Bud in a handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, soft) on penultimate start. STIRRUP CUP beat Kentish Piper short-head in a 6-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 7f, good to soft) on penultimate start.
MERE CLASS beat WILLSFORD (5lb better off) 5l in a 7-runner handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good) with CYTHERE (8lb better off) 7l 3rd and DIRECT (5lb better off) tailed off 7th. DIRECT beat Farm Week 1l in this race last year (heavy) with SUNBEAM TALBOT 20l 5th and CUSHINSTOWN 6l 7th. CYTHERE 20l 2nd of 5 to Tammy's Friend in a handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start.
SUNBEAM TALBOT 11l 4th of 14 to Postman's Path in a handicap chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good). SUNLEY BAY 2l 2nd of 11 to Man of Mystery in a handicap chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good)
Selection: MERE CLASS

1.30 GINSTERS HANDICAP HURDLE (BBC1)
(£3,715: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 0/3336-5 ONEUPMANSHIP 7 (C,G,S) (J Stott) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 8-11-10 ... S Fox (7) 98
2 3P0121- CARIBOO GOLD 221 (G,S) (Sheikh Marwan Al-Maktoum) K Bailey 4-11-5 ... M Dwyer 98
3 2P/2110- GRENAGH 247 (C,S) (Mrs D Joyce) V Bishop 12-11-2 ... P McLoughlin (7) 92
4 1541P6- IRISH BAY 241 (F,G,S) (R Shaw) C Egerton 7-11-0 ... J Railton 86
5 0124-44 SUPER RITCHART 7 (G,S) (The Gradon Associates) B Palling 5-10-4 ... C Llewellyn 90
6 /1582 MEDITATOR 10 (G,S) (Miss J Doyle) Miss J Doyle 9-10-3 ... S Curran (5) 99
7 161/3/1 RAMPOLDI 24 (G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 8-10-2 ... R Dunwoody 84
8 45U/ JOSIE SMITH 1650 (CD,S) (R Harraway) Mrs A Knight 9-10-0 ... D Matthews (5) —

Long handicap: Josie Smith 7-3

BETTING: 5-2 Rampoldi, 7-2 Cariboo Gold, 5-1 Irish Bay, 6-1 Meditator, 8-1 Super Ritchart, 10-1 Oneupmanship, 12-1 Grenagh, 66-1 Josie Smith.

1992: MUSICAL MONARCH 8-9-11 R Greene (12-1) D Barons 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

CARIBOO GOLD beat Aremef 3l in an 8-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). GRENAGH beat Castlebay Lad 2½l in a 7-runner handicap hurdle here (3m, good to soft) on penultimate start.
IRISH BAY best recent effort when beating Darkbrook 2½l in a 9-runner novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f, good to firm). SUPER RITCHART 4l 4th of 11 to Jeassu in a handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good) with ONEUPMANSHIP short head 5th. MEDITATOR ¾l 2nd of 11 to Nick The Dreamer in a handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good).
RAMPOLDI beat Southerly Gale 1½l in an 18-runner novice hurdle at Worcester (3m, soft).
Selection: ONEUPMANSHIP

2.05 REHEARSAL CHASE (BBC1)
(Limited handicap: £15,970: 3m) (5 runners)

1 1111-F1 JODAMI 17 (D,F,G,S) (J Yeadon) P Beaumont 8-12-0 ... M Dwyer 97
2 51/PP10- PARTY POLITICS 231 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs D Thompson) N Gaselee 9-10-9 ... C Llewellyn 99
3 21U4FP- RIVERSIDE BOY 218 (CD,G,S) (Bisgrove Partnership) M Pipe 10-10-7 ... R Dunwoody 86
4 1125P-6 FIDDLERS PIKE 18 (C,D,S) (Mrs Henderson) Mrs R Henderson 12-10-7 Mrs R Henderson 76
5 FF211-1 SHEER ABILITY 18 (S) (M Devlin) C Mann 7-10-7 ... J Railton 64

Long handicap: Riverside Boy 9-1, Fiddlers Pike 8-12, Sheer Ability 6-12.

BETTING: 1-5 Jodami, 6-1 Party Politics, 12-1 Riverside Boy, 16-1 Fiddlers Pike, 50-1 Sheer Ability.

1992: RUN FOR FREE 8-10-7 M Perrett (3-1) M Pipe 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

JODAMI beat Cab On Target ¾l in a 3-runner handicap chase at Haydock (3m, good to soft). PARTY POLITICS best recent effort when beating FIDDLERS PIKE (19lb worse off) 4l in a 9-runner handicap chase at Haydock (3m 4f 110yd, good) with RIVERSIDE BOY (15lb worse off) 7½l 4th. FIDDLERS PIKE tailed off 6th of 7 to Mere Class in a handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good to soft). SHEER ABILITY beat L'Uomo Piu 3l in a 5-runner handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: PARTY POLITICS

2.35 GOOD LUCK SELLING HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £1,702: 2m 4f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 20P40-0 BOOGIE BOPPER 9 (S) (M Pipe) M Pipe 11-5 ... R Dunwoody 99
2 26-F3 BUSMAN 8 (Mrs M O'Shea) J O'Shea 11-0 ... M Hourigan 95
3 P-0 CHARMED LIFE 18 (P Brazier) P Leach 11-0 ... N Dawe —
4 54-F563 CZAR NICHOLAS 14 (P Wylde) M Hammond 11-0 ... M Dwyer 91
5 LAGGARD'S QUEST 474F (A Jones) A Jones 11-0 ... G Upton —
6 P-53200 LAW FACULTY 14 (North Liverpool Racing) G Ham 11-0 ... C Maude 72
7 65-0350 DANCING DANCER 19 (AEC Electric Fencing Ltd) R Frost 10-9 ... J Frost 78
8 43466 SOUL TRADER 51 (G Hackling) Mrs A Knight 10-9 ... S Burrough 88
9 P ZODIAC STAR 24 (E Jones) G Ham 10-9 ... S Mackey —

BETTING: 5-2 Boogie Bopper, 7-2 Busman, 4-1 Czar Nicholas, 6-1 Soul Trader, 8-1 Law Faculty, 10-1 Dancing Dancer, 14-1 Laggard's Quest, 16-1 others.

1992: THE BLACK MONK 4-11-9 P Scudamore (1-3 fav) M Pipe 7 ran

3.05 FLURRY KNOX NOVICES CHASE
(£2,882: 2m 3f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 354/33-1 MUDAHIM 9 (F,G,S) (K Bell) C Broad 7-11-2 ... C Llewellyn 90
2 /3640/3 GREY ADMIRAL 16 (V,F,G) (G Stickland) G Stickland 8-10-12 ... Mr S Stickland —
3 0/FF6P/ IT'S AFTER TIME 593 (S) (Mrs R Brackenbury) Mrs R Brackenbury 8-10-12 ... C Maude —
4 51/212-2 MONSIEUR LE CURE 17 (G,S) (H Brown) J Edwards 7-10-12 ... R Dunwoody 99
5 P/PPFP NEVER EVER 17 (T Price) T Price 8-10-12 ... Guy Lewis (7) —
6 500P-65 NICKLE JOE 31 (G) (Mrs E Tate) M Tate 7-10-12 ... R Bellamy —
7 STRIDE ALONG (D Bloomfield) D Bloomfield 10-10-12 ... R Darke (7) —

BETTING: 4-5 Monsieur Le Cure, 7-4 Mudahim, 8-1 Nickle Joe, 16-1 It's After Time, 20-1 Grey Admiral, 25-1 Stride Along, 50-1 Never Ever.

1992: MILFORD QUAY 9-11-5 P Scudamore (2-7 fav) M Pipe 3 ran

3.40 GRUNWICK CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£4,532: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

1 11 CAPTAIN KHEDIVE 16 (F,G) (Khedive Partnership) P Hobbs 5-11-7 ... M Hourigan —
2 10- A FORTIORI 280 (S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 5-11-4 ... T Dascombe —
3 1 KENMORE-SPEED 26 (F) (K Docker) Mrs S Smith 6-11-4 ... Mr C Mulhall —
4 1 SPRINTFAYRE 28 (G) (P Colman) R Simpson 5-11-4 ... Mr M Armytage —
5 62- MR CLANCY 226 (K Clancy) K Bailey 5-11-0 ... A Thornton —
6 4 PRINCE TEETON 18 (Mrs S Richards) R Buckler 4-11-0 ... Mr P Henley —
7 3 SEBASTOPOL 18 (D Page) P Nicholls 4-11-0 ... R Greene —
8 28 SEE ENOUGH 18 (J G Meaden) R Buckler 5-11-0 ... N Parker —
9 1- PRECIOUS JUNO 241 (S) (Robert F Schlagman) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-13 ... L O'Hare —
10 43/ MERTON MISTRESS 635 (P Winkworth) P Winkworth 6-10-9 ... Mr G Cosgrove —
11 22- SLIPMATIC 255 (E Wilkinson) P Jones 4-10-9 ... Guy Lewis —

BETTING: 3-1 Captain Khedive, 4-1 Sprintfayre, 5-1 Mr Clancy, 6-1 Sebastopol, 8-1 Precious Juno, 10-1 A Fortiori, Kenmore-Speed, 14-1 See Enough, 20-1 others.

1992: ASLAN 4-11-7 W Dwan (5-2) Jimmy Fitzgerald 10 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Pipe	61	209	29.2	M Foster	5	20	25.0
Mrs J Pitman	16	86	18.6	R Dunwoody	20	83	24.1
C Brooks	6	34	17.6	D Gallagher	4	29	13.8
P Hobbs	11	72	15.3	E Murphy	3	29	10.3
G Balding	12	92	13.0				
J Edwards	5	42	11.9	Only qualifiers			

☐ **White Muzzle, unplaced in the Japan Cup in Tokyo last week, will return to Peter Chapple-Hyam's Manton stable next week to be prepared for a four-year-old campaign aimed at the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Confusion in the Japanese press directly after the race led to suggestions that White Muzzle had been retired to the Shadai Farm stud.**

WETHERBY

THUNDERER

12.45 Mhemeanles. 1.15 Run Up The Flag. 1.45 Dizzy. 2.15 Mr Boston. 2.45 Armagret. 3.15 Majority Major.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

12.45 THORP ARCH JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,057: 2m) (10 runners)

1 601 GOLDEN SAVANNAH 18 (CD,S) M W Easterby 11-4 J Driscoll (7)
2 341 HYDE'S HAPPY HOUR 21 (D,S) N Tinkler 11-4 ... G McCourt
3 F ADMISSION 21 N Chamberlain 10-12 ... A Merrigan
4 0 ALMAMZAR 18 (BF) N Tinkler 10-12 ... E Husband (7)
5 6 GENSERIC 52 T Tate 10-12 ... R Garritty
6 HO-JOE 77F J Carr 10-12 ... N Smith
7 5 JUMBO STAR 45 J Dixon 10-12 ... Mr R Hale (7)
8 4U MHEMEANLES 18 M H Easterby 10-12 ... L Wyer
9 32 O SO NEET 15 (BF) M Tompkins 10-12 ... S Smith Eccles
10 ZAAHEYAH 88F M Hammond 10-7 ... C Grant

9-4 Mhemeanles, 3-1 Hyde's Happy Hour, 4-1 O So Neet, 6-1 Golden Savannah, 10-1 Genseric, 14-1 others.

1.15 DICK WARDEN NOVICES CHASE
(£4,370: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1 -115 DEEP DECISION 21 (D,G) P Cheesbrough 7-11-10 ... K Johnson
2 4032 ABLE PLAYER 25 (B,F,G,S) Mrs S Bramall 6-11-6 ... J Burke
3 660- BIG MAC 374 (F) M Hammond 6-11-0 ... C Grant
4 F-P0 CONCERT PAPER 25 (G,S) R O'Leary 9-11-0 ... K Davies
5 /32- FATHER TIME 351 (G,S) M Tompkins 9-11-0 ... S Smith Eccles
6 121- PRECIPICE RUN 189 (G,S) G Richards 8-11-0 ... N Doughty
7 -F2F RUN UP THE FLAG 8 (BF,F,S) J Gifford 6-11-0 ... P Hide

2-1 Father Time, 5-2 Run Up The Flag, 3-1 Precipice Run, 8-1 Able Player, Deep Decision, 16-1 others.

1.45 ATS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,236: 2m) (12)

1 1123 BEAUCADEAU 28 (D,F,G) M Barnes 7-11-10 ... A Dobbin
2 212- MAJED 26F (D,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-9 ... Mr M Buckley (5)
3 2251 PERSUASIVE 14 (D,G,S) Miss L Perratt 6-11-6 ... S Mason (7)
4 435-5 UNCLE ERNIE 7 (CD,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-11-6 . F Leahy (7)
5 226- DIZZY 189 (D,F,G,S) P Monteith 5-11-1 ... F Perratt (7)
6 6-2F ARCOT 21 (D,BF,G,S) J Glover 5-10-12 ... G McCourt
7 -60P CLURICAN 21 (D,S) N Tinkler 4-10-10 ... E Husband (7)
8 310- LOCH GARANNE 240F (CD,S) M Camacho 5-10-7 ... D Byrne
9 0154 SEON 4 (D,BF,F,G,S) W Bentley 7-10-4 ... N Bentley (3)
10 -115 TOOGOOD TO BE TRUE 14 (CD,BF,G,S) M H Easterby 5-10-3 ... L Wyer
11 40-0 BOLD AMBITION 16 T Kersey 6-10-0 ... J Callaghan
12 /503 WAKE UP 31 (D,F,G,S) R O'Leary 6-10-0 ... C Grant

3-1 Majed, 4-1 Beaucadeau, 5-1 Persuasive, 6-1 Arcot, 7-1 Dizzy, 8-1 Toogood To Be True, 10-1 Seon, 12-1 Loch Garanne, Uncle Ernie, 14-1 others.

2.15 WHARFE HANDICAP CHASE
(£7,351: 3m 110yd) (8)

1 1-11 BETTER TIMES AHEAD 18 (C,D,G,S) G Richards 7-12-0 ... N Doughty
2 1-11 MR BOSTON 36 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-11 ... L Wyer
3 5-4F RIFLE RANGE 2 (D,G,S) J J O'Neill 10-11-6 ... R Garritty
4 0-32 SOUTHERN MINSTREL 14 (C,F,G,S) P Cheesbrough 10-10-10 ... G McCourt
5 31-2 CITY KID 23 (G,S) J Gifford 8-10-7 ... P Hide (3)
6 P1P- CAROUSEL ROCKET 205 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 10-10-3 ... D Bentley (5)
7 6/22 DEEP DAWN 21 (S) M Hammond 10-10-2 ... C Grant
8 21-5 RUN PET RUN 23 (G,S) P Monteith 8-10-2 ... A Dobbin

2-1 Mr Boston, 11-4 Better Times Ahead, 7-2 City Kid, 6-1 Southern Minstrel, 8-1 Deep Dawn, 14-1 others.

2.45 EMMERDALE HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,548: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1 1-23 GENERAL PERSHING 21 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) G Richards 7-12-0 ... N Doughty
2 313- YOUNG BENZ 302 (C,S) M H Easterby 9-11-11 ... L Wyer
3 -220 ARMAGRET 21 (CD,F,G,S) B Wilkinson 8-11-11 ... D Byrne
4 2-52 ANTONIN 4 (F,G,S) Mrs S Bramall 5-11-6 ... J Burke (5)
5 34-2 FIGHTING WORDS 17 (C,D,F,G) J Gifford 7-11-5 ... P Hide (3)
6 3-130 SWORD BEACH 21 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-0 G McCourt

11-4 General Pershing, 3-1 Armagret, 9-2 Young Benz, Antonin, 6-1 Sword Beach, 8-1 Fighting Words.

3.15 WALSHFORD NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,145: 3m 1f) (8)

1 /51 SPARROW HALL 17 (G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-4 ... G Tormey (7)
2 ASK TOM T Tate 4-10-12 ... R Garritty
3 -052 COQUI LANE 31 G Dun 6-10-12 ... B Storey
4 3-02 KINDA GROOVY 26 I Park 4-10-12 ... N Smith
5 0-32 MAJORITY MAJOR 23 P Cheesbrough 4-10-12 ... K Johnson
6 05/0 QUIXALL CROSSETT 18 E Caine 8-10-12 ... J Supple (5)
7 6-3 SAVOY 16 G Richards 6-10-12 ... N Doughty
8 435- SCOTTON BANKS 215 M H Easterby 4-10-12 ... L Wyer

9-4 Savoy, 3-1 Coqui Lane, 4-1 Sparrow Hall, 6-1 Majority Major, 8-1 Scotton Banks, 10-1 Kinda Groovy, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Tompkins, 6 winners from 13 runners, 46.2%; Mrs M Reveley, 32 from 98, 32.7%; J Gifford, 4 from 16, 25.0%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 21 from 89, 23.6%; G Richards, 26 from 116, 22.4%, M H Easterby, 21 from 123, 17.1%.

JOCKEYS: S Smith Eccles, 3 winners from 12 rides, 25.0%; N Doughty, 18 from 76, 23.7%; D Bentley, 5 from 23, 21.7%; L Wyer, 25 from 119, 21%; G McCourt, 21 from 111, 18.9%; D Byrne, 6 from 43, 14.0%.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

CHEPSTOW
BBC1

1.00: Mere Class looks outstanding here. He has the measure of Willsford, Cythere and Direct on recent Warwick form. Sunley Bay has place prospects.

1.30: Irish Bay has joined Charles Egerton's stable and may be good enough on his first run for him. Rampoldi's fine comeback at Worcester last month will be more than reflected in his odds.

2.05: With Party Politics likely to be rusty after an eight-month absence, only a fall should prevent **Jodami** indulging in little more than an exercise canter.

SANDOWN PARK
C4

1.20: Dominant Force is well treated on his Plumpton victory, where Gameful Gold was 19 lengths behind in eighth and is only 3lb better off. Kytton Castle has been upped a stiff 10lb for his latest victory at Aintree.

1.50: For all the promise of One More Dream's debut fencing victory over the course and distance, **Baydon Star**'s greater experience should tell.

2.25: Arabian Bold looks primed for a big run off just 10st 9lb. Nicky Henderson's five-year-old is hard to assess on his two outings this term, but is still improving. Land Afar and Maamur are closely matched on Chepstow form, where High Baron was well in arrears. Sunset And Vine and Leotard hold sound claims, but Highbrook's inexperience may count against her.

2.55: Waterloo Boy is worth chancing in a fascinating race, even though his well-documented heart problem surfaced at Exeter on his seasonal debut. In winning this race last year, he beat Deep Sensation by 2½ lengths, yet he now reopposes on 13lb better terms. Travado, an exciting prospect, has been burdened with 12st, but Storm Alert is an obvious danger.

JULIAN MUSCAT

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Sandown Park

Going: good (good to firm back straight)

12.55 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, My Wizard (P Hide, 14-1); 2, Brief Gale (11-10 fav); 3, Old Bridge (5-1). 21 ran. 3l, 4l. J Gifford. Tote: £15.80; £3.00, £1.60, £1.80. DF: £9.00. CSF: £29.27.

1.25 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Yorkshire Gale (D Murphy, 6-1); 2, Spikey (11-2); 3, Brackenfield (Evens fav). 6 ran. 2½l, nk. J Gifford. Tote: £6.80; £2.40, £2.50. DF: £14.10. CSF: £32.52.

2.00 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Deadly Charm (A Maguire, 13-2); 2, Ardbrin (4-1); 3, Buck Willow (12-1). Bibendum 6-4 fav. 5 ran. 12l, 3½l. D Nicholson. Tote: £7.40; £2.30, £2.10. DF: £16.90. CSF: £27.63.

2.30 (2m 6f) 1, Top Spin (A Maguire, 11-2); 2, Scobie Boy (7-1); 3, Mad Thyme (50-1). Arctic Kinsman 9-4 fav. 9 ran. 3l, nk. J Jenkins. Tote: £4.30; £2.00, £2.00, £6.40. DF: £18.60. Trio: £219.60. CSF: £38.25.

3.00 (3m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Padaventure (L Wyer, 7-2); 2, Whats The Crack (5-2 fav); 3, Anno Chilone (14-1). 8 ran. 7l, 3½l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £3.90; £1.50, £1.60, £2.50. DF: £4.50. CSF: £11.84. Tricast: £93.96.

3.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Bagalino (M Perrett, 9-4); 2, Wings Cove (10-11 fav); 3, Stay With Me Baby (7-1). 6 ran. ¾l, 15l. G Harwood. Tote: £3.30; £2.10, £1.30. DF: £2.60. CSF: £4.47.

JACKPOT: not won. (Pool of £8,186.39 carried forward to Sandown today).

Placepot: £125.70.

Exeter

Going: good

12.50 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Jump Start (A Dicken, 6-1); 2, Handy Lass (13-8 fav); 3, Up All Night (10-1). 11 ran. 4l, 5l. S Pike. Tote: £18.20; £3.20, £1.40, £2.80. DF: £15.00. CSF: £17.41. Tricast: £96.85.

1.20 (2m 2f hdle) 1, My Ballyboy (N Mann, 5-6 fav, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Bugler (7-4); 3, Young Tess (10-1). 7 ran. Nk, 10l. A Bailey. Tote: £1.80; £1.50, £1.20. DF: £1.60. CSF: £2.71.

1.50 (2m 2f ch) 1, Big Beat (P Holley, 5-4 fav); 2, Crystal Bear (6-1); 3, Bush Hill (12-1). 5 ran. Dist, dist. D Elsworth. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £2.00. DF: £4.40. CSF: £8.41.

2.20 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Chickabiddy (G Upton, 2-1 fav); 2, Oh So Handy (12-1); 3, Legal Win (16-1). 14 ran. 6l, 8l. G Edwards. Tote: £3.20; £2.00, £3.40, £4.10. DF: £23.20. CSF: £26.58.

2.50 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Lake Teereen (R Dunwoody, 4-1); 2, Gholar (14-1); 3, Jailbreaker (9-2). Clever Shepherd 11-10 fav. 8 ran. ¾l, 15l. R Rowe. Tote: £5.20; £1.60, £2.40, £1.80. DF: £22.60. CSF: £49.40. Tricast: £239.26.

3.20 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Absalom's Lady (P Holley, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Island Jewel (14-1); 3, Front Street (3-1 jt-fav). 13 ran. 5l, hd. D Elsworth. Tote: £5.00; £1.90, £1.60, £2.30. DF: £21.80. Trio: £99.10. CSF: £45.15. Tricast: £133.20.

Placepot: £27.90.

Hereford

Going: good to soft

12.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Don't Forget Marie (A Procter, 13-8 fav); 2, Sabeel (33-1); 3, Douglago (2-1). 14 ran. 4l, 8l. A Bailey. Tote: £1.90; £1.40, £105.80, £1.10. DF: not won. CSF: £56.26.

1.10 (2m 3f ch) 1, Man Of Mystery (D Bridgwater, 9-4); 2, Monumental Lad (9-1); 3, Pithy (7-1). Greenhill Raffles Evens fav. 5 ran. 4l, 2l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £3.40; £1.60, £2.60. DF: £7.00. CSF: £17.06.

1.40 (3m 2f hdle) 1, Texan Baby (D Bridgwater, 4-1); 2, Grey's Ellergy (5-2 fav); 3, Needwood Poppy (4-1). 13 ran. ¾l, 5l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £5.10; £1.40, £1.70, £1.20. DF: £16.00. CSF: £12.76.

2.10 (2m ch) 1, Kibreet (S Earle, 5-4 fav); 2, Generous Scot (5-1); 3, Fanatical (6-1). 10 ran. 7l, 2l. R Alner. Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £2.10, £1.60. DF: £12.70. CSF: £7.09.

2.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Project's Mate (P McLoughlin, 33-1); 2, Chandigarh (9-2); 3, Forgetful (6-1). Lucky Blue, Teseklauredenn 4-1 jt-fav. 14 ran. 3l, 8l. R Brown. Tote: £122.40; £11.90, £2.90, £1.30. DF: £305.80. CSF: £165.53.

3.10 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Visaga (D Bridgwater, 5-1); 2, Major Cut (25-1); 3, Lastofthevikings (14-1). Mr Tittle Tattle 3-1 fav. 12 ran. 1¾l, 4l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £6.40; £1.80, £5.10, £3.90. DF: £51.80. Trio: £184.90. CSF: £99.97. Tricast: £1,463.17.

3.40 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Edimbourg (D Meredith, Evens fav); 2, Derrymoss (16-1); 3, Emallen (33-1). 10 ran. 15l, dist. Miss H Knight. Tote: £1.90; £1.20, £2.20, £2.40. DF: £17.70. Trio: £171. CSF: £17.84. Tricast: £309.60.

Placepot: £108.90.

Nottingham

Going: good to soft

12.35 (2m hdle) 1, April City (S Keightley, 12-1); 2, Omidjoy (8-1); 3, Al Forum (5-6 fav). 6 ran. 4l, 1½l. M Heaton-Ellis. Tote: £16.60; £2.70, £3.20. DF: £21.80. CSF: £87.16.

1.05 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, We're In The Money (B Dalton, 10-1); 2, Lady's Island (4-1); 3, Spoonhill Wood (5-4 fav). 6 ran. 20l, 5l. J Wharton. Tote: £13.50; £6.10, £1.50. DF: £6.50. CSF: £43.94.

1.35 (2m ch) 1, Martha's Son (R Farrant, 11-8); 2, Rodeo Star (4-5 fav); 3, Social Climber (8-1). 4 ran. NR: Peaceman. 3½l, 15l. T Forster. Tote: £2.20. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.83.

2.05 (2m hdle) 1, Touch Silver (M Appleby, 12-1); 2, Beyrak (11-10 fav), 3, Bitran (12-1). 7 ran. 10l, 12l. H Manners. Tote: £20.40; £5.20, £1.40. DF: £22.50. CSF: £25.76.

2.35 (3m 4f hdle) 1, Lesbet (D Morris, 9-1); 2, Jellarby (14-1); 3, Mediane (16-1). If You Say So 11-2 fav. 15 ran. ½l, 12l. R Curtis. Tote: £9.40; £5.20, £12.20, £2.30. DF: £332.20. Trio: £106.80. CSF: £121.04. Tricast: £1,818.60.

3.05 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Glen Cherry (G McCourt, 7-4); 2, Ryton Guard (6-5 fav); 3, Sailor's Delight (7-2). 4 ran. 12l, 8l. T Forster. Tote: £2.30. DF: £1.40. CSF: £3.99.

3.35 (2m hdle) 1, Glenfinn Princess (G McCourt, 4-1 jt-fav); 2, Artic Wings (4-1 jt-fav); 3, Milles Own (5-1). Judge And Jury 4-1 jt-fav. 11 ran. 8l, hd. K Bridgwater. Tote: £6.40; £1.50, £1.80, £2.30. DF: £22.50. Trio: £29.90. CSF: £20.57. Tricast: £77.43.

Placepot: £3,099.80 (£418.91 carried forward to Sandown today).

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Edinburgh, Ludlow.
TUESDAY: Sedgefield, Plumpton.
WEDNESDAY: Haydock Park, Worcester, Lingfield Park.
THURSDAY: Haydock Park, Fakenham, Taunton.
FRIDAY: Doncaster, Cheltenham, Hexham.
SATURDAY: Doncaster, Cheltenham, Edinburgh, Lingfield Park.
Flat meeting in bold

SCRATCHINGS: All engagements (dead): Tone Control, Munir, Old Hand, Barafall, Relkino, Go To Town, Firefla, Suny Dancer, Sunberry, Flammula, Well Lined, Cultured, Pardon Me Sir, Clear Fountain, Leading Artist, Purple Point.

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Price leaves Faldo seven shots adrift at halfway

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NICK Price left Nick Faldo trailing in his wake on the second day of the Million Dollar Challenge golf tournament in Sun City yesterday.

Price, 36, of Zimbabwe, took a giant step towards the sport's richest title by adding a 66 to his opening 67, putting him seven strokes ahead of second-placed Faldo at the halfway stage.

"He's playing well, putting well and has luck on his side," Faldo said. Having matched his playing partner shot-for-shot on the first day, the Briton could do no better than a 73 and slipped to four under par, with a total of 140.

Faldo's reference to luck concerned two of Price's six birdies. First he sank a 60ft putt at the 11th, then his drive down the 15th skipped out of a bunker and enabled him to float an eight-iron to the heart of the green, from where he sank a 25ft putt.

A surprised Faldo three-putted from half the distance



Price: six birdies

and said afterwards: "I let it slip during the middle of the round. I didn't hit it that badly, but I kept finding some bad spots.

"I went backwards, he went forwards. It's as simple as that, but at least I'm playing with him again tomorrow and I'll just have to keep chipping away.

"The 11th was where he must have felt it was his day. He would have been delighted with a par because he hit the putt much too hard, might have bogeyed and ended up with a birdie."

Faldo had started his round with a 30ft putt and led at that point, but it was his only birdie of the day and, apart from the 15th, he also dropped a stroke on the short 12th, fluffing a chip.

There was no fortune in Price's other four birdies. He pitched close to the flag on the long 2nd and 10th, and played accurate irons into the 8th and 13th. Just as important, he has still to record a bogey and at the last splashed out of sand to five feet to preserve his lead.

Asked if he could remember when he last played as well, Price said: "May, June, July and August." He has just finished top of the money list in America, with $1.4 million (about £950,000), and a sixth victory of the year on Sunday will take his worldwide earnings for 1993 to a record $2.8 million.

"I wanted so badly to bring my best form to this course, because previously I have never really fired on all cylinders here," Price said. Last year he shared the third-round lead but was disqualified. He had been forced to pull out of the tournament twice before, once with appendicitis and a second time with a broken thumb.

David Frost, Bernhard Langer, Mark McNulty — three former winners — and the American, Corey Pavin, are joint third on three under par, eight shots adrift.

Frost, the defending champion, who was penalised two shots on the opening day for failing to replace his ball after it moved as he prepared to putt, took only two holes to recover those strokes, but could make no further inroads.

Pavin and McNulty also had 70s, while Langer came home in 33 for a 69. "I'm playing quite well, but Nick is playing exceptional golf," Langer said.

Ian Woosnam, hoping to improve on his 75 on the first day, instead slumped to a 78. Ten-over-par on 154, he is 21 strokes behind Price. Even if he remains last, however, he will be handed a cheque for $100,000.

133: N Price (Zim) 67, 66. 140: N Faldo (Eng) 67, 73. 141: B Langer (Ger) 72, 69; M McNulty (Zim) 71, 70; C Pavin (US) 71, 70; D Frost (SA) 71, 70. 142: F Allem (SA) 72, 70. 145: M O'Meara (US) 74, 71; E Els (SA) 76, 69. 149: L Janzen (US) 76, 73. 150: P Stewart (US) 75, 75. 154: I Woosnam (Wales) 78, 76.

☐ Curtis Strange, of the United States, showed signs of a revival in form as he opened a two-shot halfway lead yesterday in the Greg Norman Holden Classic at The Lakes course in Sydney.

Strange, among the top players in the world in the late Eighties, has not won since the second of his back-to-back US Open titles in 1989, but he capitalised on benign conditions to shoot a six-under-par second round of 67 and move to an 11-under total of 135. Steve Elkington, of Auatralia, was in second place after a round of 70.

DESMOND BOYLAN



Competitors launch their challenge for the 200 metres backstroke in a qualifying heat in Palma yesterday

Pickering captures world title

BY CRAIG LORD

KAREN Pickering yesterday became the first British woman to win a world swimming title. Her victory in the 200 metres freestyle in Palma, Majorca, in a Commonwealth record of 1min 56.25sec, the second-fastest time ever, also stopped a run of victories by the Chinese.

Le Jingyi and Dai Guohong had lowered world records twice each yesterday before Pickering's magnificent performance at the inaugural world short-course championships.

Le's time in the 50 metres freestyle was 24.23sec, half a second faster than the previous record held by Franziska van Almsick. Dai wiped another eastern German name from the slate, lowering the 200 metres breaststroke record to 2min 21.99sec.

Just as the crowd was settling back for another session of Chinese dominance, Pickering intervened.

Not since Rome in 1960, when Anita Lonsbrough won the Olympic 200 metres breaststroke title, has the Union flag been raised above the colours of other nations for a British woman at world level. David Wilkie is the only British man to win a world title, in 1975.

Pickering, 21, said she felt "detached from reality" as she watched the national flag float above those of Australia, courtesy of Susan O'Neill, whose record she broke, and China, represented by Lu Bin, who was third.

"The adrenalin really started to flow down the last length, I knew I'd won," Pickering, who held back until halfway before applying steady pressure on the third 50 metres, said.

Her time was just a stroke away from van Almsick's world record of 1min 55.84sec. That may go at the national championships at Gloucester next week. The target is the world record at 200 metres and the Commonwealth record at 100 metres, in which she finished third on Thursday.

Pickering put her success down to a steady build-up and a scientifically-based training programme that monitors levels of lactic acid in the body during training. "When you stand on the blocks and you've done the work, well, you're just very confident. That's how I felt today," she said.

Her programme with Dave Champion, at Ipswich, is aimed at bringing Pickering to her peak when she is 24. That will coincide with the Olympic Games in Atlanta. "It's better than trying to rush it and be a child star," she added.

Pickering will fly home this morning and be back in the water at a college pool in Brighton, where her parents live, on Sunday morning in preparation for Gloucester. She will do so no better off financially, the only sour note after yesterday.

Referring to plans to spend up to £200,000 on appointing a director of British swimming, she said: "We've managed okay. I don't think we need one. They should give us the money."

Angel Martino, of America, continued to upset the Chinese apple cart by winning the 100 metres backstroke in a world record time of 58.50sec.

For Britain, Paul Palmer collected a bronze medal in the 400 metres freestyle, while Adam Ruckwood set a British record of 1min 56.91sec to finish seventh in the 200 metres backstroke. Nick Gillingham finished fourth in the 100 metres breaststroke and will race in his best event, the 200 metres, today.

Coleman looking to achieve unique double

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE annual University cross country fixture, begun in 1880, has never had a winner who has triumphed in the colours of both Oxford and Cambridge. Prepare for that to change today.

Emma Coleman, who won the women's race for Cambridge two years ago, is the likely winner for Oxford this afternoon. Coleman, who left Cambridge with first-class honours in biological anthropology, is now studying malaria research at Magdalen College for a D Phil.

"I wanted a change of scene and particularly to try Oxford," Coleman, who started at her new seat of learning two months ago, said. Ahead of her this year is a mixture of laboratory study and fieldwork, some of it in a place far removed from the cold and the mud of the English winter.

As part of her research, she is heading for the Gambia where she will be working with the Medical Research Council, which is funding her studies at Oxford. Her fieldwork today, though, is on Wimbledon Common, where she won on the finish line two years ago and finished second last year. A member of the British team which won the world students' title last year, Coleman, 22, is optimistic of victory. Mara Myers, the Oxford captain, seems her most likely challenger.

From Roger Bannister and Chris Chataway to Richard Nerurkar, there have been some distinguished winners of the University men's race, being run today for the 103rd time. Oxford lead 52-50 while the score in the women's match, introduced in 1976, is 10-7 to Cambridge. After seven years in Oxford hands, the men's individual title seems ready to pass to Cambridge. A close race between Charles Addison and Ian Harkness, both of Cambridge, is expected. Faint hopes of an eighth successive Oxford winner rest with Eddie Broome. Simon Baines, winner for the past two years, has left Oxford and is now on a sports scholarship at the University of Washington, Seattle.

The 22-year-old Baines has established himself as his new university's No 1, finishing second in the west coast students' championship and tenth in the United States students' championship. Fast improving — he was fifteenth in the Kent junior championship three years ago — Baines has designs on joining Nerurkar, his former fellow dark blue, in the British team for the world cross country championships in Durham next season.

England session disrupts clubs' planning

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

ENGLAND indoor training at Dulwich College today has disturbed the preparation and travel arrangements of several clubs engaged in important Pizza Express national hockey league matches tomorrow. Southgate will be practising today without John Shaw, Soma Singh and Rupert Welch for their away match against Stourport.

"This was the match we blew last year when he lost 2-1," Michael Burman, the Southgate liaison officer, said, adding that the physical strain imposed on the players during indoor training would do them little good for the game the following day.

Stourport once again may be forced to leave out Richard Jones, who has failed to recover from a hand injury, but Guy Edlin, the New Zealander, will fill in at centre back and Andy Watson will play at centre half.

Welton, who play Teddington at Birmingham University, will leave Hull early tomorrow morning for Birmingham without Andy Humphrey, who is making his way there from Dulwich after England training. Teddington report no changes to the side that drew 1-1 with Old Loughtonians last week.

Hounslow, two points ahead of Southgate at the top of the first division, are at full strength for their visit to East Grinstead, whose goalkeeper, David Luckes, and outside right, Peter Head, have shrugged off the injuries that kept them out of the 3-1 victory over Bromley last week.

Don Williams and Peter Nail rejoin Havant from Dulwich for their home match against Cannock, who are fourth behind Havant but with the same number of points. Havant will have Calum Giles playing at outside right, Williams at centre forward and either Matthew Cross or Stuart Avery at outside left.

Change is unlikely at the top of the second division as Surbiton, Guildford and Barford Tigers are all expected to win.

The 12 players and six reserves training at Dulwich are being prepared for the European indoor qualifying tournament in Lille from December 17 to 19.

ENGLAND INDOOR SQUAD: D Luckes (East Grinstead), S Mason (Firebrands), R Crutchley (Hounslow), J Halls (Old Loughtonians), I Leslett (Teddington), P Mellor (Teddington), M Shaw (Southgate), D Williams (Havant), A Humphrey (Welton), M Sutton (Bournville), Soma Singh (Southgate), P Nail (Havant).

☐ The Hockey Foundation has appealed to players to add an extra £1 when paying their match fees this weekend as a contribution to the national stadium appeal fund.

GUIDE

3.0 unless stated

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership

Coventry v Arsenal (all ticket)
Everton v Southampton
Ipswich v Oldham
Leeds v Manchester City
Manchester Utd v Norwich
QPR v Aston Villa
Sheffield Wednesday v Liverpool
Swindon v Sheffield Utd (all ticket)
Tottenham v Newcastle (all ticket)
Wimbledon v West Ham United

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	17	14	2	1	34	13	44
Leeds	17	8	6	3	29	15	30
Arsenal	17	8	6	3	17	9	30
Blackburn	17	8	5	4	22	16	29
Aston Villa	17	8	5	4	19	15	29
Newcastle	17	8	4	5	32	17	28
Norwich	16	7	6	3	25	16	27
QPR	17	8	3	6	29	23	27
Liverpool	16	8	2	6	24	16	26
West Ham	17	6	5	6	13	16	23
Tottenham	17	5	7	5	22	18	22
Wimbledon	17	5	7	5	19	24	22
Everton	17	5	6	6	18	22	21
Ipswich	17	5	6	6	18	22	21
Sheff Wed	17	4	8	5	27	25	20
Coventry	17	4	8	5	17	20	20
Man City	17	3	7	7	16	20	16
Sheff Utd	17	3	6	8	18	28	15
Chelsea	17	3	5	9	11	19	14
Southampton	17	4	2	11	18	28	14
Oldham	17	3	5	9	11	19	14
Swindon	17	1	6	10	14	36	9

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

Bristol City v Middlesbrough
Charlton v Luton
Grimsby v Barnsley
Nottingham Forest v Birmingham
Oxford Utd v Millwall
Portsmouth v Sunderland
Stoke v Watford

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Charlton	18	10	5	3	24	14	35
Tranmere	18	10	4	5	21	21	34
C Palace	17	10	3	4	34	19	33
Southend	18	10	3	5	34	22	33
Leicester	17	9	3	5	27	17	30
Millwall	19	8	6	5	25	25	30
Derby	18	9	2	7	28	30	29
Bristol City	19	8	5	6	25	21	29
Portsmouth	18	8	4	6	27	22	28
Stoke	18	9	3	7	27	31	27
Notts F	18	7	5	6	26	25	26
Wolves	18	5	9	4	29	21	24
Middlesbrough	17	6	5	6	25	20	23
Bolton	18	6	5	7	24	25	23
Notts Co	18	7	2	9	24	30	23
Luton	18	6	2	10	23	33	20
Grimsby	18	4	8	6	22	21	20
Birmingham	18	5	5	8	19	27	20
West Brom	17	5	4	8	28	30	19
Oxford Utd	18	5	4	9	24	33	19
Watford	17	5	4	8	24	33	19
Sunderland	18	5	2	11	18	30	17
Barnsley	19	4	4	11	23	37	16
Peterboro	17	3	5	8	15	24	15

(Not including last night's game)

Second division

Blackpool v Hartlepool

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	18	12	4	2	43	21	40
Stockport	18	12	3	3	34	15	39
Bristol R	18	10	4	4	26	17	34
Burnley	18	10	2	6	32	23	32
Plymouth	18	9	4	5	35	25	31
Port Vale	17	9	4	4	33	18	31
Blackpool	18	9	3	6	33	27	30
Hull	18	7	9	3	32	20	30
Brentford	18	7	6	5	19	16	27
Bradford	18	7	4	7	30	29	25
Leyton O	18	7	4	7	22	26	25
Exeter	18	6	6	6	30	34	24
Wrexham	18	6	6	6	28	29	24
Cambridge Utd	18	6	5	7	25	27	23
Swansea	18	6	5	7	21	26	23
Bournemth	18	6	5	5	18	18	23
York	18	6	4	8	21	21	22
Rotherham	18	4	6	8	23	31	18
Cardiff	17	3	8	6	26	31	17
Huddersfield	18	4	5	9	17	27	17
Hartlepool	18	4	4	10	15	29	16
Fulham	18	4	3	11	19	28	15
Brighton	18	3	6	9	15	30	15
Barnet	18	2	2	14	16	41	8

FA Cup

Second round

Bournemouth v Nuneaton
Brentford v Cardiff
Burnley v Rochdale
Carlisle v Stalybridge
Chester v Hull
Crawley v Barnet (all ticket)
Crewe v Macclesfield (all ticket)
Kidderminster v Woking
Leyton Orient v Exeter
Lincoln v Bolton (6.0)
Plymouth v Gillingham
Stockport v Halifax
Torquay v Sutton Utd
Walsall v Scunthorpe
Wigan v Scarborough
Wycombe v Cambridge Utd
Yeovil v Bromsgrove

Autoglass Trophy

Second round

Wrexham v Colchester
York v Mansfield

GM Vauxhall Conference

Dover v Slough
Gateshead v Stafford
Northwich v Merthyr
Runcorn v Southport
Welling v Kettering

Scottish League

Premier division

Celtic v St Johnstone
Dundee Utd v Kilmarnock
Hearts v Aberdeen
Motherwell v Rangers
Partick v Dundee
Raith v Hibernian

First division

Ayr v Hamilton
Clyde v St Mirren
Clydebank v Brechin
Falkirk v Dumbarton
Morton v Dunfermline
Stirling v Airdrie

Second division

Albion v East Stirling
Berwick v Stenhousemuir
Cowdenbeath v Arbroath
Forfar v East Fife
Meadowbank v Alloa
Montrose v Queen of the South
Stranraer v Queen's Park

Diadora League

Premier division

Aylesbury v Molesey
Bromley v Grays
Dorking v Chesham
Harrow v Stevenage Borough
Hayes v St Albans
Hitchin v Marlow
Kingstonian v Dulwich

OTHER MATCHES: Carshalton v Yeading; Enfield/Wivenhoe v Hendon; Wokingham v Basingstoke. First division: Barking v Whyteleafe; Berkhamsted Town v Uxbridge; Bishops Stortford v Abingdon Town; Chalfont St Peter v Billericay Town; Croydon v Walton and Hersham; Purfleet v Bognor Regis Town; Rulsip Manor v Maidenhead Utd; Staines Town v Boreham Wood; Tooting and Mitcham v Heybridge Swifts; Windsor and Eton v Leyton; Worthing v Wembley. Second division: Aveley v Hungerford Town; Chertsey Town v Aldershot Town; Edgware Town v Egham Town; Hampton v Saffron Walden Town; Lewes v Metropolitan Police; Malden Vale v Rainham Town; Newbury Town v Leatherhead; Thame Utd v Hemel Hempstead; Tilbury v Barton Rovers; Ware v Collier Row; Witham Town v Banstead Athletic. Third division: Bracknell Town v Horsham; Clapton v Leighton Town; East Thurrock Utd v Oxford City; Epsom and Ewell v Cheshunt; Feltham and Hounslow B v Harlow Town; Racklewll Heath v Kingsbury Town; Harefield Utd v Camberley Town; Hertford Town v Northwood; Royston Town v Southall; Tring Town v Homchurch.

Northern Premier League

Premier division

Boston v Horwich
Buxton v Emley
Colwyn Bay v Accrington Stanley
Droylsden v Barrow
Knowsley Utd v Bishop Auckland
Matlock v Gainsborough
Winsford v Frickley

OTHER MATCHES: Bridlington Town v Morecambe; Chorley v Marine; Whitley Bay v Leek. First division: Curzon Ashton v Caernarfon Town; Fernley Celtic v Netherfield; Mossley v Radcliffe Borough. First division cup: Bamber Bridge v Congleton Town; Gt Harwood Town v Worksop Town; Goole Town v Harrogate Town; Lancaster City v Guiseley; Warrington Town v Spennymoor Utd; Ashton Utd v Workington.

Beezer Homes League

Premier division

Atherstone v Hednesford
Chelmsford v Trowbridge
Cheltenham v Burton
Dorchester v Gloucester
Solihull v Hastings
Worcester v Stitrngbourne

OTHER MATCHES: Cambridge City v Famborough; Gresley Rovers v Waterlooville. Midland division: Bilston Town v Weston-super-Mare, Bridgnorth Town v Armitage; Clevedon Town v Hinckley Town; Forest Green Rovers v RC Warwick; Grantham Town v Evesham Utd; King's Lynn v Redditch Utd; Newport AFC v Stourbridge; Rushden and Diamonds v Dudley Town; Sutton Coldfield Town v Yate Town; Tamworth v Leicester Utd. Southern division: Baldock Town v Burnham; Dunstable v Tonbridge AFC; Erith and Belvedere v Buckingham Town; Gravesend and Northfleet v Fisher 93; Margate v Bury Town; Salisbury City v Ashford Town; Wealdstone v Fareham Town; Witney Town v Canterbury City

GAMINOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Newry; Ballyclare v Portadown; Ballymena v Bangor; Carrick v Glentoran; Coleraine v Cliftonville; Crusaders v Glenavon; Distillery v Linfield; Omagh Town v Larne.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Mold; Afan Lido v Conwy; Brlton Ferry v Holywell; Cwmbran v Caersws; Ebbw Vale v Newtown; Flint Town Utd v Haverfordwest; Inter Cardiff v Porthmadog (2.30); Llanelli v Connah's Quay; Llansantffraid v Ton Pentre (2.30); Maesteg Park v Bangor.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Brigg Town; Belper Town v Liversedge; Eccleshill Utd v Ossett Albion; Lincoln Utd v Denaby Utd; North Ferriby Utd v Pickering Town; Ossett Town v Thackley; Pontefract Col v Stocksbridge PS; Sheffield v Glasshoughton Welfare; Winterton Rangers v Maltby MW.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Frome Town v Bideford; Paulton Rovers v Calne Town; Taunton Town v Odd Down; Tiverton Town v Exmouth Town; Torrington v Crediton Utd; Westbury Utd v Elmore; Chippenham Town v Saltash Utd.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Brandon Utd v Blyth Spartans; Durham City v Billingham Synthonia; Eppleton CW v Tow Law Town; Gusborough Town v Shildon; Newcastle Blue Star v Chester-le-Street; Northallerton Town v Hebburn; Seaham Red Star v Dunston FB; Stockton v Ferryhill Athletic; West Auckland v Whitby Town.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Lamot Pils Trophy: Ashton Town v Marn Town; Nelson v Haslingden. First division: Atherton LR v Bacup Borough; Bradford Park Avenue v Clitheroe; Chadderton v Eastwood Hanley; Nantwich Town v Bootle; Newcastle Town v Blackpool Rovers; Penrith v Burscough; Rossendale Utd v Kidsgrove Athletic; Salford City v Maine Road; Shelmeredale Utd v Flixton; St. Helens Town v Darwen.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Charlton v Chelsea. League Cup: First round: Fulham v Ipswich; Millwall v Watford; Norwich v Cambridge Utd; Portsmouth v Leyton Orient; Southend v QPR; Tottenham v Gillingham; West Ham v Arsenal; Division Two: Bournemouth v Bristol City. League Cup: First round: Brentford v Tottenham; Bristol Rovers v Luton; Colchester v Brighton; Crystal Palace v Reading; Southampton v Oxford Utd; Swindon v Wimbledon.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Nottsborough v Old Owens; Old Grammarians v St Mary's College; Wandsworth Boro v Mill Hill Village; Wilsn v Old Beslonians. Senior two: Ealing Association v Old Monovians; Hadley v UCL Academicals; Pollygons v Dunrcombe Sports. Senior cup: Fulham Compton v Corinthian Casuals; Albanian v Parkfield; Old Fairopians v Old Woodhousians; Southgate County v Ulysses.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Carshelton v Civil Service; Nat West Bank v Crouch End Vampires; South Bank Poly v Lanabury; Old Actonians v Norsemen; Old Bromleians v Alexandra Park; Lloyds Bank v Broomfield; Kew Association v Old Parkonians; Polytechnic v Southgate Olympic; East Barnet OG v Old Latymerians; Royal Bank Scotland v Old Westminster Ctz; Cuaco v Brentham; Reigate Priory v Old Parmiterians; Bank of England v Merton; Old Lyonians v Barclays Bank; Alleyn OB v Old Selesians.

RUGBY UNION

Tour match

Barbarians v New Zealand (2.30) (at Cardiff Arms Park)

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Bristol v Newcastle Gosforth
Harlequins v Bath
London Irish v Leicester
Northampton v Wasps
Orrell v Gloucester (2.30)

Second division

Moseley v Otley
Nottingham v Sale
Saracens v Rugby (2.15)
Wakefield v Waterloo (2.30)
West Hartlepool v London Scottish

Third division

Bedford v Morley
Exeter v Blackheath
Fylde v Havant (2.30)
Richmond v Coventry
Rosslyn Park v Redruth (2.30)

Fourth division

Askeans v Leeds (2.30)
Liverpool St Helens v Aspatria (2.30)
Plymouth v Harrogate (2.30)
Sheffield v Clifton (2.30)
Sudbury v Broughton Park (2.30)

Fifth division north

Birmingham Solihull v Durham
Hereford v Walsall
Kendal v Rotherham
Nuneaton v Lichfield (2.30)
Stoke-on-Trent v Preston Gr (2.30)
Stourbridge v Bradford and Bingley

Fifth division south

Basingstoke v London Welsh (2.30)
Camborne v Berry Hill (2.30)
High Wycombe v Lydney
North Walsham v Southend
Reading v Met Police
Weston-super-Mare v Maidstone

McEwan's Scottish League

Second division

Biggar v Clarkston (2.0)
Edinburgh Wanderers v Musselburgh (2.0)

Heineken Welsh League

First division

Aberavon v Dunvant (2.30)
Newport v Llanelli (12.30)
Swansea v Cross Keys (12.15)

Second division

Penarth v Narberth (12.15)
South Wales Police v Llandovery (2.30)
Tenby Utd v Moutain Ash (2.30)

Representative matches

Kick-offs 2.0

Glasgow District v Munster
Leinster v Edinburgh District
Scottish North and Mid v Connacht
Ulster v South of Scotland

Club matches

Ayr v Heriot's FP
Boroughmuir v Glasgow High/Kel
Edinburgh Acads v Watsonians
Gala v Dundee HSFP
Hawick v Currie
Jed-Forest v Stewart's Melville FP
Melrose v Glasgow Acads
Selkirk v Grangemouth
West of Scotland v Wigton

RUGBY LEAGUE

3.0 unless stated

FOOTBALL

FA Cup

Second round

Bath v Hereford (1.30)

FA Carling Premiership

Blackburn v Chelsea (4.0) (all ticket)

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

Crystal Palace v Notts County
Southend v Leicester
Wolverhampton v Derby (all ticket)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Cork City v Shamrock Rovers (2.15); Dundalk v Derry City (3.30); Galway Utd v Cobh Ramblers (2.15); Monaghan Utd v Limerick (2.15); St Patrick's Athletic v Shelbourne (2.15).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship

Castleford v Bradford (3.30)
Halifax v Widnes
Oldham v Leigh
Salford v Wakefield
Sheffield v Leeds (3.15)
Warrington v Featherstone
Wigan v Hull KR

Second division

Batley v Barrow (3.15)
Carlisle v Ryedale York (2.0)
Doncaster v Rochdale
Highfield v Hunslet
Huddersfield v Bramley (3.30)
Keighley v Workington (3.15)
Swinton v Dewsbury
Whitehaven v London Crusaders (3.30)

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: First round: Blackpool v Park Amateurs (2.0); Chorley v Eliand (2.30); Nottingham v Clayton (2.0).

RUGBY UNION

Heineken Welsh League

First division

Cardiff v Newbridge (3.30)
Pontypool v Pontypridd (2.30)

COLTS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals (at Castlecroft, Wolverhampton): Yorkshire v Somerset (11.30); Kent v Gloucestershire (1.0).

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Guildford Kings v Thames Valley Tigers; Chester Jets v Oldham Celtics.

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Brixton Topcats v Cardiff Heat. Second division: Northampton 86'ers v Mid Sussex Magic; Swindon Sonics v Chiltern Fattbreak.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Brixton Lady Topcats v Birmingham Quality Cats; Ipswich v Rhondda; London Jets v Barking and Dagenham Bobcats; Northampton 86'ers v Chester Cats. Second division: London Heat v Sunderland Ladies.

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury v Bromley (Polo Fm 1.0); E Grinstead v Hounslow (Saint Hill, 2.0); Havant v Cannock (Havant Golf 2.15); I Gymkhana v Reading (Imperial Coll 1.30); O Loughtonians v Bromley (Chigwell 2.30); Slough v Firebrands (Wexham Sch 2.0); St Albans v Trojans (Clarence Pk 2.0); Stourport v Southgate (K Charles Sch, Kidderminster 1.30); Welton v Teddington (Birmingham Univ 12.0). Second division: Guildford v Cheltenham (Kings Manor Sch 12.0); Harborne v Barford T (Birmingham Univ 2.0); Doncaster v Ipoa (Cuthell Pk, Scunthorpe 2.0); Edgbaston v Brooklands (Birmingham Univ 2.30); Gloucester City v Neston (Plock Ct 1.30); Harleston M v Surbiton (Shotford Heath 2.0); Oxford Univ v Beeston (N Oxford Sports 2.0); Richmond v Warrington (Teddington Sch 2.0); Sheffield v Cambridge City (Abbeydale Pk 12.30).

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Royal Bank of Scotland inter-county championships.
CYCLING: National Trophy cyclo-cross (Braunclon Pk, Leicester 2.0).

Marlow v Ramgarhia; Mill Hill v Amersham; Milton Keynes v Wokingham; Morris Motors v Aylesbury; NPL v Sunbury; OMT v Richings Park.

ERNST AND YOUNG NORTH LEAGUE: Ben Rhydding v Timperley; Blackburn v York; Formby v Hightown-Northern; Norton v Durham University; Southport v Alderley Edge. Second division: Bradford v Liverpool Sefton; Knutsford v Harrogate; Ramgarhia v Sheffield Bankers; Springfields v Wigan; Stockton v Oxton; Swalwell v Bowdon; Tynemouth v Halifax; Wakefield v Disley.

SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE: Brean v Swansea; Exeter University v Plymouth; Hereford v Westbury Banks; Taunton v Whitchurch; Weston-super-Mare v Bath Bucos.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Leicester v Sutton Coldfield; Chelmsford v Clifton; Ealing v Ipswich; Slough v Hightown. First division: Bluehears v Bracknell; Bradford v Exmouth; Trojans v Doncaster; Wimbledon v Pickwick. Second division: Colwall v Canterbury; Harleston v Sherwood; Gt Harwood v Sunderland; Woking v Otton.

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP FINAL: Cardiff Devils v Murrayfield Racers (Sheffield Arena, 3.0).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: University cross-country match (Richard Evans Memorial Playing Fields, Kingston Vale, 2.15). Representative cross-country match (RAF Cosford).
DARTS: Embassy world qualifying (Park Inn Hotel, London).
LACROSSE: All England women's senior counties tournament (Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton, Middlesex).
NETBALL: English counties league: First division: Bedfordshire v Middlesex; Hampshire North v East Essex; Mid-Hampshire v Essex Met; Surrey v Birmingham.
VOLLEYBALL: Royal Bank of Scotland League: Men: Polonia Ealing v Tooting Aquilla; Reebok Liverpool City v Whitefield Sportset; Wessex v Team Mizuno Malory Lewisham.

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TOKEN

هكذا من الأصل

Germany take lead over Australia in Davis Cup final

Stich battles back to end Stoltenberg's defiance

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN DÜSSELDORF

THERE have been a few surprises in the 80 Davis Cup finals and yesterday, in the 81st, Jason Stoltenberg was on the verge of causing one of the biggest. An unexpected choice anyway, he almost gave Australia the initial advantage over Germany, the hosts, in the opening rubber.

Stoltenberg, 23, from New South Wales, plays in round-rimmed glasses and a headband. He looks more like a earnest physics student than a tennis professional but he kept Michael Stich sliding around the indoor clay court here for almost 3½ hours before yielding 6-7, 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

He was not supposed to be either so stubborn or so durable. He has improved markedly this year, rising from 168th to 44th in the world, but is neither suited to the slower surface nor has gained any significant experience in the competition.

Although a former world junior champion in singles and doubles, he has won only four matches on clay in his career. During practice earlier in the week, he had beaten 30-year-old Wally Masur so assuredly that Neale Fraser, the team captain, decided to promote him above Australia's elder statesman.

Stoltenberg made his Davis Cup debut in Peru in 1989, lost his one singles match and was subsequently overlooked until the semi-final in India three months ago. The 5-0 victory there was achieved on grass and it had been thought that Masur might be asked to perform in the cavernous arena here.

A vast, functional building, it could comfortably accommodate a fleet of aeroplanes. There is space even for an expansive putting green, an incongruous stretch of territory, as well as 13,000 spectators. But why was the lone scoreboard, suspended at one end, comparatively the size of a handkerchief?

It carried ominous information after an hour. Stich, reportedly suffering from fatigue and an aching back, lost the tie-break 7-2. Apart from one accurately floated return from Stoltenberg, the German contributed to his own downfall at the end of an otherwise straightforward set that featured only one break point for each player.

Stich started the year ranked no higher than fifteenth. After his triumph in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) world championship a fortnight ago, he is now second only to Pete Sampras. Few opponents can beat Stich anywhere and hardly anyone has been able to beat him in his homeland this year. He is the first player since Ivan Lendl, in 1989, to win a title on all four surfaces in a year.

Nevertheless, the choice of clay, designed to diminish the challenge of the Australians, seemed less than wise until he took the second set with a couple of crisp aces and the third with even greater ease.

Stoltenberg responded as he had at home in Australia at the start of the year. Then, in their only previous meeting, in the last 32 of the Australian Open, he had taken the first and fourth sets. The same pattern was followed here.

Moreover, he broke through early in the final set but, leading 2-1, conceded his advantage with a double fault. Stich edged ahead 4-3 and, with a lunging backhand volley, took himself to within a couple of points of victory. Holding both arms aloft, he knew he was virtually home.

A minute later, to rhythmic clapping and thunderous roars, he was home, with relief as much as elation. "I played to 70 to 80 per cent of my ability," he said. "But Jason played really well, especially because he does not normally play on clay.

"He served well, sneaked in to the net and didn't make many mistakes from the back of the court. When he went a break up in the fifth set, he probably thought he had won it. I remember thinking the same when I played against Martin Jaite in Argentina three years ago."

Stich admitted to "feeling a bit tired" but insisted that his weariness would not affect his contribution. "I'm so motivated to winning the Davis Cup that that will be enough to keep me going over the next two days. The crowd helped to lift me, especially in the last set."

He had earned the ATP world title on a relatively fast court in Frankfurt and conceded that he would have preferred similar conditions. "If I had known that I would win two weeks ago, we probably would have chosen another surface but, for the sake of our team, I still think that we made the right choice."

Stoltenberg was bitterly disappointed after going so close to victory. "Obviously, it's frustrating to lose," he said. "I could have put Australia 1-0 clear.

"When I led 2-0 in the fifth, I kept trying to stay aggressive but he was putting my service under a lot of pressure. That's why I double-faulted to let him back at 2-2."

He said he had not been affected by the vociferous home crowd. "They were what I expected," he said "I don't think it affected me at all."

SCORE: Germany lead Australia, 1-0. M Stich (Ger) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus), 6-7, 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

JOACHIM HERRMANN



Stich, of Germany, on the way to beating Stoltenberg in five sets yesterday

Maria runs gauntlet along line of fire



SIMON BARNES
Sporting Diary

MARIA Edilene is a top-level linesman or lineswoman or linesperson in the Brazilian FA. She was running the line in a clash between two São Paulo league sides, Corinthians and Cruzeiro. The encounter, traditionally hot, became incandescent in the ninetieth minute, when Rivaldo scored the winner for Corinthians. It looked more than a trifle offside, but Edilene ran confidently back to the centre line, convinced the goal was good.

The Cruzeiro players were incensed. They surrounded her and commenced kicking her. She escaped serious injury and television replays later showed that she was one hundred per cent correct. "She has the eye of an eagle," one newspaper commentator said. "I knew I was right and I was not afraid," Edilene said. "Women in Brazil are showing that they have the competence that Fifa demands." She becomes this column's second-favourite linesman, after the Russian linesman who only spoke Russian and Turkish. Remember him?

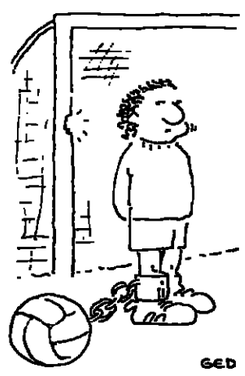
Shaken not stirred

Roger Milla, the Cameroon superstar, has been having a bad time. It was announced on Cameroon state radio that he had been involved in a car smash on the road between Yaounde and Douala. Milla, they reported both anxiously and solemnly, was more shaken and upset than hurt. Better news is that Milla, the four-goal boogie-man of Italia '90, now allegedly 42, has offered to come out of retirement now that Cameroon have qualified for the World Cup finals.

Keeping hungry

I don't know if René Higuita, the great Colombian goalie and long-time if not all-time hero of this column, will qualify for the Wayward Genius Club (see below for latest port-soaked news on this front), but he is unquestionably at least 50 per cent of the way there. Latest information I have on the world's most hapless custodian is that he has gone on hunger strike. Higuita, the goalie who adventured and peregrinated to the halfway line and beyond during the last World Cup, is still in jail, accused of contravening Colombia's fierce kidnapping laws by negotiating for the release of a kidnapped girl. He has been in jail for six months and legal authorities have still not decided whether or not the case should go to trial. Higuita wants bail: they won't give it to him.

"René has gone on hunger strike to draw public attention to his situation in the hope that the authorities will define his judicial situation



GED

immediately according to the law," gobbledygooked his lawyer, Fabio Lizcano. For the first time in his life, Higuita is confined to the penalty box.

Big let down

The first bottle of ambrosial Calem Colheita 1962 tawny port goes to Andrew Osborne, for his nomination for the Wayward Genius Club. He puts up the more-than-amply-qualified Paul Gascoigne, the former football player. Or does he get the odd game now and again? Mr Osborne writes: "I nominate Gascoigne for his remark after the England win against Poland at Wembley — 'Well, at least I did not let anybody down' — but he had been quite unnecessarily booked, he was eliminated from the crunch game against Holland, thereby letting everybody down." Profoundly true. A bottle of port for the wayward Mr Osborne: more bottles offered for further nominations.

Court case

Betty Micoff and Greg Van Zandt fell in love on their first date. How could it be otherwise, since they went to watch the Detroit Pistons basketball team. They decided to marry and Micoff suggested they do so on court at the Pistons. Van Zandt, humourously, perhaps humouringly, agreed. A few days later, Micoff told her intended that Detroit had agreed. Van Zandt promptly broke into a cold sweat — an audience of 18,000 seemed excessive — but, despite his terror, it went ahead. There were free tickets for all the family and Betty was given a gold Detroit Pistons garter belt. Who could ask for more?

Setting an example

Finally, greetings to Justin Fashanu, the man with elbows like the knives on Boadicea's chariot. Today, Fashanu steps up as special representative for an organisation called Unite, a collaboration between the Scouts Association and Unicef, the United Nations' children's fund. I asked if they had any reservations about this after the Mabbutt Affair: "That's entirely separate!" I suppose it is; the project aims to heighten awareness of HIV and Aids in Uganda. Fashanu is probably the most decent chap I never want to play football against.

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Every day from November 18 to December 11, *The Times* is featuring the holidays organised by the participating tour operators in this offer. For full details, simply phone the Brochure Hotline or send a written request to *The Times* Brochure Service (see below). You may request as many free brochures as you wish. Getting your discount is so simple: Today and each day until Saturday, December 11, a special token will appear in *The Times* — 21 tokens in total. You need collect only ten tokens to qualify for your 20 per cent discount. The discount applies to any number of people booking on any one tour operator's booking form. If you choose to collect 20 tokens, you can use the additional ten on a second holiday.

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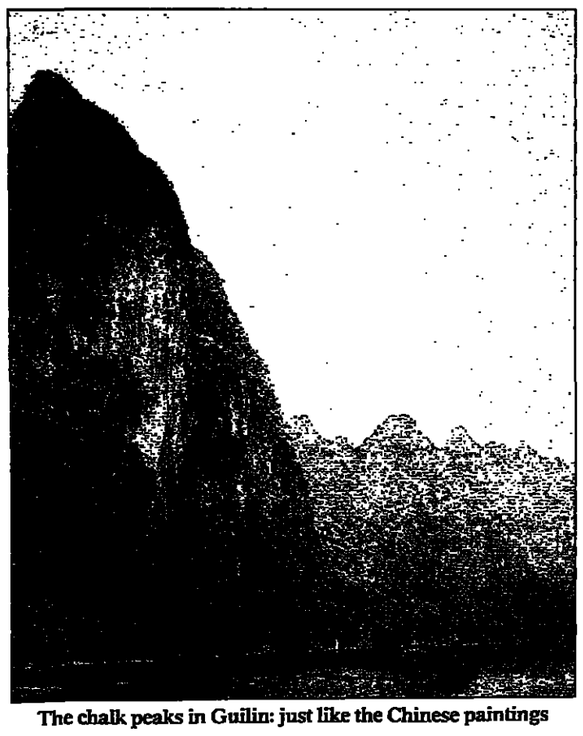
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The chalk peaks in Guilin: just like the Chinese paintings

Adventure in the East

Independent travel in China can be hard work and exasperating. Backpackers are advised to learn a little Chinese and try not to pay vast tourist rates for transport. Excellent guides can be hired for small groups, but at a cost, and organised tours are cheaper.

Pack warm clothing for autumn or winter visits, as there will be plenty of walking between sites, under murky skies or in landscapes glittering with ice. Bus travel is cramped but easy, and tourists conspicuous — especially those over six feet tall, which is as high as bus ceilings go and far above the heads of the Chinese.

Blending in is easier on bikes: the lessons of your cycling proficiency test will prove useful. After a day of riding around, you might think yourself an expert but for the humbling example of the Chinese. A typical rural scene is full of bicycles obscured by their burdens: wife on the back, husband peddling, child on the handlebars and panniers of garlic, peppers and onions secured to the sides.

Most of China is beseiged by tourists, mainly Chinese. James Heath, an Oxford engineer who made a September visit, went sightseeing at dawn to avoid the crowds: "The Great Wall very early in the morning was utterly peaceful and we walked along the top. There were brilliant autumn colours, red and green and brown rolling over the hills. As we were walking back, Chinese tourists started pouring in and soon you couldn't move. It was quite frightening, like trying to get out of a football stadium."

> Conspicuous foreigners are outnumbered by Chinese tourists

Beijing is crowded, sprawling, polluted and confusing. Rent a bike for 80p and cycle from temple to backstreet slum. Your main objectives will probably include the Bird Market, the Buddhist Llama temple and the observatory at Jianguomen. The Forbidden City, in the centre, is a colourful rush of palaces, temples, courtyards and gardens. An excursion to the Summer Palace in winter finds deep snow and the most picturesque pagodas, with optional tobogganing or skating on the lake.

The Ming tombs of emperors lie between Beijing and the Wall. They are another conventional but obligatory trip, all the more charming for their varying states of disrepair. "Some had been restored, others were untouched, just sitting in the middle of fields with grass growing out of the roofs," Mr Heath said.

Take binoculars to see the detail of the terracotta army at Xian. The warriors are stunning but you will be 60 feet away. The chalk peaks of Guilin are another delight, resembling nothing so much as Chinese paintings of chalk peaks. Meander through them by boat.

The north-western wilds are a retreat from the overpopulated heartlands. The Heavenly Lake in Xianjiang province is a peaceful haven on the ancient Silk Route. If you can, stick around for the more chaotic market day in the oasis of Kashgar or advance on horseback into the mountains.

This part of China is not difficult to broach but relatively undiscovered by westerners. Your own initiative, rather than the tour itinerary, dictates the project and pace.

LUCY BERRINGTON

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PETRA WEEKEND: One of the world's most exciting experiences is a trip to rose-red Petra, hidden in encircling craggy rock mountains south of the Dead Sea in Jordan. For 500 years or more, the Nabatasean Arabs carved their capital from the rock of the surrounding mountains. Rock stairs lead to rock-carved streets and thence to rock-carved palaces and temples, tombs and dwelling. This 7-day tour is accompanied by a guest lecturer and also visits Amman, Jerash and the Kings Highway.
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A: You must pay the relevant tour operator's deposit at the time of booking with their signed booking form. You must pay the balance due for your holiday(s) 10 weeks prior to departure. Cox & Kings will forward the relevant tour operator's invoice to you within three weeks of receiving your booking form, deposit and tokens. Your invoice will be for the balance of your holiday cost less the discount and less the deposit paid. If you wish to pay by credit card a surcharge of 1.5 per cent will be levied.

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A: Bookings can be made when you have your ten tokens and relevant booking form. You must book your holiday(s) by February 20, 1994.

Q: To what does the discount apply?
A: It applies to the specific departure date and tour offered by the operator. Any number of people booking together on one booking form, together with ten tokens attached, can take part in the offer. It excludes any other supplements, including single room supplements, any other holiday, insurance, car hire (except where car hire is part of the specific tour offered by the operator), special excursions, amendments, surcharges, visas or cancellation charges.

Q: What happens if I miss or lose a token?
A: We will be publishing a total of 21 tokens and back-dated copies will be accepted (though photocopies will not be accepted). So you should be able to catch up.

Q: Do I have to take any specific insurance?
A: No, you may arrange your own insurance, but you must ensure that you are fully covered for the holiday booked and forward details of the policy arranged when mailing your booking form.

Q: Are the operators bonded?
A: Yes, all the operators featured in this offer are bonded and have complied with the financial bonding requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority or the Passenger Shipping Association. This means that you will be repatriated/refunded in the unlikely event of the operators insolvency.

Saturday portrait: Glenn Hoddle, by Simon Barnes

Master of playing arts struggling to pass test of management

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



If you are a football manager and you lose seven games in eight, the world waits for the axe to fall. But around Glenn Hoddle circles speculation on a still darker fate: he is many people's first choice for the vacant post of England manager and to become the saviour of English football.

What an odd beast is English football. When Hoddle was clearly the best footballer in the country, people called him "a luxury player". Now that he is a struggling manager, he is in danger of imminent canonisation.

When he was a player, the England manager and most of the pundits did not trust him. He is, or was, the kind of player you built your team around. Bobby Robson built his England team around Bryan Robson. England, and English football, preferred its virtues less exotic than Hoddle's.

So people went on about Hoddle not tackling back, his defensive poverty, his lack of ball-winning qualities. The daftest of all was Hoddle as the enigma of English football. Skill and vision are not enigmatic qualities, simply elusive ones. "Unlike the Brazilians, we look for faults as soon as we recognise a player's skill," Hoddle said in 1981, the year after he made the first of 53 international appearances. "Of course the runners and tacklers are part of the game, but people don't have a go at them if they can't play 40-yard balls or go past three men at a time. They don't expect them to do the things that skilful players are good at. That is the way we are in England and maybe that's why Brazil do a bit more at international level."

Despite the evidence of his colossal skills, Hoddle was never truly accepted, other than by the faithful at Tottenham Hotspur, and was seldom uninhibitedly praised. Now, despite the slim evidence of his management credentials, the Hoddle-for-England bandwagon is rolling as well as anybody's, poor fellow.

Let us assess. All one can say for certain about Hoddle as a manager is that he is, was, a very good player. He took Swindon Town into the FA Carling Premiership via the scenic route of the play-offs. He did this in his second full season as a manager and his team attracted rave reviews every step of the way: so cultured, so lovely, and this from journeymen professionals of the lower divisions. They did not win their division in their promotion season, they came fifth.

But Hoddle was at the back of it all, the manager-libero, chesting the ball down and stroking it the ritual 40 yards. He scored a nice goal at Wembley in the play-offs to send Swindon on their way. Nothing became him at Swindon like the leaving of it.

For he passed on to Chelsea. His passage from the harbour of the first division to the turbulent waters of the Premiership has not been serene. After the next few weeks, we will know rather more about his abilities as a manager than we did before. An England manager must be good at handling adversity.

> 'He is seen as the man to save England from the barbarism of the long-ball game — some task for a tyro manager'

The favourite diagnosis of Chelsea's failings is that the players are not good enough to do what Hoddle, 36, asks of them. Perhaps he is overtaxing them: the knack of football management is to get results with the manpower you have. Kitchener once said: "We have to make war as we must, and not as we would like to." He should have been a football manager.

For English football has changed since Hoddle struck his first 40-yarder. Clubs now keep their home receipts, ending parity of competition and ensuring that big clubs get bigger while small clubs struggle to survive. The art of survival, as many managers have learnt in this knockabout school, is in maximising the limited abilities of your players.

The answer, for many, is the reviled long-ball game, pioneered by Watford, who had brief success in the top flight; followed notoriously by Wimbledon, who won the FA Cup and still cut it at top level despite their Southern League crowds; and by Ireland, who reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup. Hoddle is seen as the man to save England from the primeval barbarism of the long-ball game. This is quite a thing to lay on a tyro manager.

What surprised most people is not that Hoddle has found a little success as a manager but that he became a manager at all. Manifestly decent, intelligent, thoughtful, quiet-natured, ungiven to public feuding and quietly religious, he seemed to have all the wrong qualifications. "I am very strong-willed," Hoddle said. "People don't understand that. They think that with that touch and flair, I'd have to be soft."

Brian Clough once hit back at those who criticised Hoddle for lacking bravery as a player: "It takes a lot of moral courage to play the way he does." And physical courage, too. But the point is not that Hoddle is a sensitive artist who happens to compete; he is a tough competitor with a touch of artistry. He will require all his competitiveness to turn things around at Chelsea.

So what we have, then, is an everyday story of footballing folk: ageing player becomes player-manager, finds early success, moves up to big time and hits crisis. Can he survive? Story to be continued after Chelsea's match against Blackburn at Ewood Park tomorrow.

Fair play to him, too. But the business is thrown out of all proportion by its moral dimension. Hoddle-for-England represents one of the great wish-fulfilment dreams of footballing man. It is based on the extraordinary thesis that there are two ways of playing football: one right and one wrong. *Morally* right; *morally* wrong.

The moral wrongs of football do not involve, or necessarily involve, injury-faking, skull-fracturing, defiance of law and order, mayhem, anarchy and the destruction of football and society as we know them. It is all down to the question of whether or not the football is pretty to watch.

"I don't think there's a better footballing side in the division," Hoddle said when he was in charge of Swindon, adding tellingly, "but perhaps good footballing sides don't always get their just rewards." Their football was admired not for its effectiveness, but for its own sake, for its niceness, for its prettiness. They played "the right way". They played "football". All jolly right and proper but, as Hoddle can tell you from a careful look at the Premiership table, there are very few points available for artistic impression.

Chelsea, fourth from bottom, stand eight places below immoral old Wimbledon. It is hard to stand on the moral high ground when you lie at the bottom of the table.

The real fault with the long-ball game is not its immorality, but that, at the highest level — but only at the highest level — it gets found out. Ireland did not win the World Cup, nor Wimbledon the League. Both went as far as they could. Just rewards?

But football is not a moral crusade. It is sometimes incidentally beautiful, or exciting, but only incidentally. Beauty and excitement are mere by-products. But football is always a game and therefore its prime concern is winning and losing.

Hoddle has been cast as the love-object of the so-called purists. It is an unfair, not to say ludicrous burden to lay on the shoulders of an ambitious and probably capable young manager still learning his trade. Alas, poor Glenda.

Stalybridge drawing on Hughes's good humour

Walter Gammie reports on the non-League club hoping to emerge from the shadow of illustrious predecessors in the FA Cup today

RUSS Hughes, the Stalybridge Celtic goalkeeper, sees the basis of a successful side being founded in team spirit. "If you have a good atmosphere off the pitch, it helps generate the right results on it," he said before preparing to defend his lines against Carlisle United in an FA Cup second-round tie at Brunton Park this afternoon.

His self-belief was put to the test this week, as he admitted he had "a real shocker" in the replay at Marine on Monday that clinched Stalybridge a place in the second round for only the second time, the last being in 1935 when they lost 1-0 to Darlington. "I had three or so bad matches rolled into one," Hughes said. Yet, at the end of extra time, with the scores locked at 4-4, the luck was with him as successive Marine players put penalty kicks onto and over his crossbar in a shoot-out that Stalybridge won 4-2.

His team-mates draw heavily upon Hughes's reserves of good humour. For every home match Hughes pens caricatures of the "Bower Boys" for the Stalybridge programme. He revealed his talent on an end-of-season trip to Whitley Bay and has been in demand ever since. "It all helps," Hughes said. "It is particularly good for making newcomers feel at home."

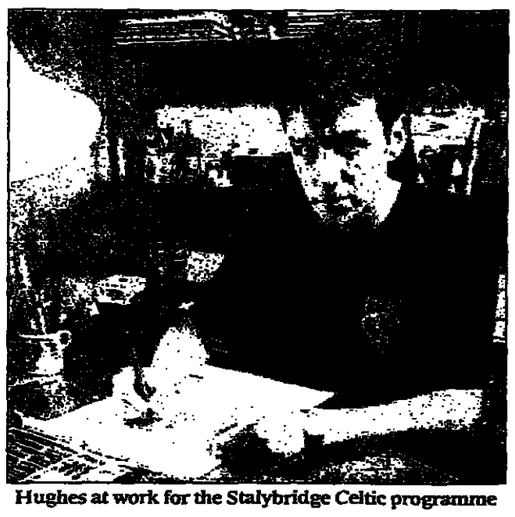
Home is the Bower Fold, a ground that bore witness after the first world war to a fleeting glimpse of life in the Football League. The present GM Vauxhall Conference side is aiming to repeat history, but this time make it more permanent. First time round, a local businessman, Herbert Rhodes, himself a player, set the ball rolling when he established the club in 1909 and acquired Bower Fold. He spent £100 to get it ready for use in the Lancashire and Cheshire Amateur League.

In 1911, Stalybridge moved through the Lancashire Combination and into the Central League before the War. As the sole non-League club in the Central League, their performances in the 1920-1 season were enough to win a place in the third division north, established for 1921-2. Stalybridge finished seventh in the 20-strong division in their first season but, after a high of fourth place the following year, the club slipped and crowds dropped. At the end of the season, Stalybridge resigned from the Football League. Rhodes, having put in £25,000 of his own money, had had enough.

"I think we are the only club to have resigned from the League," Peter Barnes, the club chairman, said. He regards the club's history as important, yet, for all that, it remains a cautionary tale. "We will do it right," Barnes said. "Every step we take has been thought through. Tameside is a growing area and I think we have much to offer to people who cannot afford to go into Manchester to watch United or City."

Progress after Stalybridge had won the Cheshire League in 1980 and the Bass North-West Counties League in 1987, was maintained by winning the Northern Premier League under the management of Phil Wilson.

Recent form has been patchy. "We've been getting too many draws at home," Hughes said, "but at times things have clicked and we have played very sweetly." Today he will be looking to his team-mates to conjure feats to illuminate Bower Boy columns for seasons to come.



Hughes at work for the Stalybridge Celtic programme

United hope for European riches

BY PETER BALL

UEFA'S decision to give the top eight seeded clubs a bye into the league stage of the European Cup next season gives Manchester United the chance to become as dominant in England as Real Madrid have traditionally been in Spain. If United win the FA Carling Premiership and, as expected, are seeded in the top eight, they will be guaranteed a minimum of £5 million and could make £12 million if they reach the final.

"The first thing is to get there," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday at the launch of the club's latest money-spinning venture, a magazine of news and match highlights on video, "but it will give us another chance at the real challenge, to see how we compare against the best.

"The target we have set ourselves is the challenge of playing against the Milans. In the Premiership, we sometimes falter against the smaller teams and are at our best against the best teams and we hope that will be true in Europe. We know we can do better than we did against Galatasaray — I think that if we had been 2-0 up against AC Milan, there is no way we would have lost it."

One small cloud on the horizon is the news that Paul Ince and Peter Schmeichel have so far failed to agree new contracts. By paying some of the highest salaries in the game, United have had notable success this season in getting most of their star names to sign extended contracts, but Ince and Schmeichel have so far failed to sign, with the goalkeeper refusing the terms on offer.

"Obviously we want to keep both players and I am very hopeful that Paul Ince will sign," Martin Edwards, United's chairman and chief executive, said, "but if players believe they can do better elsewhere, that is their choice."

Campbell's progress poses key questions

Rob Hughes on the dilemma that faces Tottenham Hotspur over one of their most promising players

IN THE beginning, there must be talent. Sol Campbell certainly has his share. He is the Tottenham Hotspur youngster who, on Wednesday, in his first 90 minutes as a centre forward, proved a more decisive goalscorer than Alan Shearer.

One goal, one performance, does not a career make and Campbell is not even sure whether he can, or whether he wants, to be a permanent resident in the opposition penalty area. At just 19 years and two months, he represents the growing conundrum in British football of whether we know how to measure the balance between opportunity and maturity. Campbell will probably start at centre forward today against Newcastle; perhaps, on Monday, he will be asked to perform at right back, left back, centre back or his own preference in midfield against Arsenal.

Every team should be so lucky to have such an adaptable youth. Yet, although he appears to take Premiership football in his enormous stride, one wonders whether his body — over 6ft, more than 12st and still developing — is being well served by playing 22 games in the 109 days since August.

Indeed, he has been pressed more than that. In late July, he was the colossus at centre half in England's Under-18 team which won the European championship. After that exertion of four games in seven days, he played five times in 15 days for Tottenham in August and, if he starts today and on Monday, he will have accomplished six games in 16 days.

The old footballing cliché is that if they are good enough, they are old enough. Perhaps. Right now, the biggest question in British football concerns technique and if specific weaknesses in Campbell's game exist, surely he would be better spending some time with the apprentices under the coaching of the youth team manager, Keith Waldon, than being rushed three times a week in a ferocious league.

"I don't want to be pushed all over the place," said Campbell, whose full name Sulzeer Jeremiah Campbell reflects his Jamaican roots rather than his upbringing close to West Ham's football stadium. "Of course I want to play and I'm willing to do whatever job helps Tottenham. I keep chugging away, sleeves rolled up, you know, but playing centre forward isn't my natural position, I think that is in midfield."

The prospects are that if Teddy Sheringham recovers from his minor cartilege operation by Monday, Campbell would revert to defence. "I've got to get my mind right," he added. "It's two different positions, more different than people who haven't played might appreciate."

His manager Osvaldo Ardiles, appreciates this. He said on Wednesday that the reason Campbell played centre forward is that "we had nobody else", but added that his pleasing young charge had plenty to learn.

The learning in the past was both physical and mental. John Cartwright, now the youth coach at Charlton, taught Campbell between the ages of 14 and 16 when he was a Spurs associate schoolboy resident at the FA school of excellence at Lilleshall: "The big problem we had with Sol was that he was growing so fast. Throughout his first year, our physios had a terrible problem. Sol had growth spurts that were not even. He grew one side, then the other. He waddled when he ran."



Campbell: promise

Nursing the youth through this, admiring his steady application to academic study, Cartwright was certain that he would make "a top-class player" fitness permitting. The tutor and the pupil have so far proved right. Cartwright insisted that Campbell, predominantly right-footed, learn to kick with the left and when Campbell scored his only other Tottenham goal, on his league debut exactly 12 months ago, it was then with the left foot. He scored with his right against against Blackburn after "practice" at shooting for goal had been crammed into the last week.

Those coaching techniques are rarer than they ought to be, even for a player who any day now will be offered a wage more commensurate with his performances in the hurly-burly football which English teams play the game faster than anywhere else on the planet. Yet, while Tottenham's injuries persist, while Campbell remains a player elevated beyond his youth, the learning and adaptation of skills will have to come, as it so often does in our football, during instead of additional to games.

Cartwright and Waldon, the two coaches who groomed Sol Campbell in his formative years, have both produced papers in the current edition of *Soccer Coach*, the journal of the London Football Coaches' Association. The two men are conscientious tutors, yet their fears for the standards of technique training are writ large and should be compulsive reading.

"It comes back to the system," Cartwright said. "Playing under pressure, our kids are not necessarily being taught right and if they don't develop talents by learning as they play, there is no help for them." Campbell, for the moment, is ruling in his kingdom, but remember the words "let the boy win his spurs". They were uttered by King Edward III, when speaking of the Black Prince.

Walker smiles at Spanish eyes

SPANISH eyes may be fluttering in Mike Walker's direction, but the Norwich City manager has his firmly fixed on the two matches that could shape his side's season. Speculation that Atlético Madrid may be considering an approach for Walker was very flattering, he said yesterday. "But I've heard nothing and neither has my chairman, so any such talk is at best premature."

He would, though, "think very carefully" about a definite job offer. "It's not the kind of opportunity you would pass up," he said, "but at the moment it's purely hypothetical and it won't turn my head at all."

With just one victory in nine matches and with Polston and Crook joining Ekoku and Robins on the sidelines through injury, Norwich — like their manager — will have to have their minds focused on events closer to hand. This afternoon sees the reverse FA Carling Premiership fixtures from the opening day of the season and defeat at Old Trafford will see them trailing Manchester United by 20 points. Then, on Wednesday, comes the second leg of their Uefa Cup tie against Internazionale, when they will seek to overturn a 1-0 deficit.

Another manager in demand is Alan Curbishley, who, in harness with Steve Gritt, has guided Charlton Athletic to the top of the Endsleigh Insurance League first didivison. Curbishley figures on the Birmingham City wanted list after the resignation of Terry Copper at St Andrews. "We have rejected Birmingham's request to speak to Alan, who with Steve still has 18 months of a player's contract remaining," Roger Alwen, the Charlton chairman, said yesterday. "In the 2½ years they have been in charge of the team, they have proved a highly successful partnership and one which we have no intention of seeing broken."

John Pemberton, the Leeds United defender, has become the first player to have a caution withdrawn on video evidence. Pemberton was booked at White Hart Lane on November 20 for a tackle that led to Nick Barmby, the Tottenham Hotspur striker, being carried off, but after studying a video of the incident Joe Worrall, the referee, has decided that he made a mistake.

Middlesbrough yesterday completed the £700,000 transfer of Steve Vickers, the central defender, from Tranmere Rovers.

Old score reopened by stuff of legend



Gareth Edwards, the scrum half whose memorable try lit up a famous victory over the All Blacks at Cardiff Arms Park in 1973, sets up another break for the Barbarians



Gerald Davies has bitter-sweet memories of one of the greatest moments in the history of rugby

At an uncertain hour, usually when about to be overcome by sleep, it is a sportsman's destiny to relive his days of omission or commission. A sportsman has his albatross or two to bear. Trivial though sport may be, the "what ifs ..." or "if onlys ..." are inescapable and cannot be undone: the try not scored, the tackle just missed, or, in the British Isles' case last summer, losing the first international against New Zealand in injury time, added to the store of "what might have beens". But for a reckless moment, a lapse in timing, and the tale might for ever be different. Instead, the cold shiver at midnight ...

Jeff Wilson, the All Black wing, will come to know, if he does not already, about the goblins which will taunt him about his missed penalties at Twickenham. He is young. He will return. But he will not forget. That is what makes the difference between triumph and disaster. Or, in my case, the difference between being there and not being there.

But first, let me remind myself once more, as others have done this week, of a few familar and — but for Kenneth Wolstenholme's "they think it's all over. It is now," from the 1966 football World Cup final — most repeated television sporting commentaries of these islands ...

"Williams again ... everyone with him ... Sid Going ... very little support ... good tackle by Slattery ... of Ireland ... almost to the halfway line ... Kirkpatrick to Williams ... ooh, this is great stuff ...

"Phil Bennett ... covering ... chased by ... Alistair Scown. Ooh! Brilliant ... ooh ... that's brilliant ... John Williams ... Brian Williams (putting in atackle) ... Pullin ... John Dawes ... Ooh ... great dummy ... David ... Tom David ... the halfway line. Ooh ... brilliant ... by Quinnell.

"This is Gareth Edwards ... a dramatic start! What a score ... Oooooh ... that fellow Edwards!"

You need the pictures, of course, to see the All Blacks mount the "great stuff" of the first wave of attack and the "brilliant ... oh that's brilliant" as Bennett danced, hunched shoulders, in the narrow lane and daringly scuttling, like a scared rabbit in the headlights, out of defence. And so it was that Cliff Morgan's voice trailed in the wake of rugby union's most famous try in the Barbarians 23-11 win over the All Blacks at Cardiff in 1973.

The commentator's words must fit the picture and the best of them understand that what they say and is heard is subordinate to what the viewers see. Economy, as with Cliff, is usually the key; impartiality, too. To declare his enthusiasm, as he also does, is not the same as taking sides.

Cliff Morgan begins excitedly with the All Blacks' enterprise but, as the momentum grows, is jubilant when the try comes. Because he knows that it was what he always wished for rugby.

What is thankfully missing, I whisper since I can get up to the same kind of thing myself, is any attempt at analysis. To have an expert explain in solemn tones of wisdom how, technically and tactically, it had all come to pass, why what we saw happen had happened, and the magic would have dissolved in an instant. No more words were needed.

It was some time later before I actually got to hear the commentary. For, like the best of men, I was there at the Arms Park: but feeling, since then, the worst of men. I should have played, damn it. And so, the goblins return to whisper about the missed chance. What a game, of all games: what a one to miss.

And it was not only me. Mervyn Davies, Wales' great No. 8, sat it out in the stand too. Both chosen, we instead played the part of the alickadoo all afternoon long, but only later to sigh.

The training on Thursday in Penarth had not gone that well. Gareth Edwards was to wonder later how on Earth it should have gone so right on the Saturday when it had all gone so wrong in the rehearsal. "Didn't give Phil a decent pass all afternoon in training," he said. For me, it was far worse. I, being too urgent, strained a hamstring. John Bevan was on hold. When we got back to the hotel, Mervyn had the first signs of flu.

By Saturday breakfast time, I arrived to stretch for a couple of lengths of the south touchline on Cardiff's ground to test the muscle. I soon left in despair. No good. I could not sprint. Bevan was in.

And so, 20 years ago, the gods smiled a golden and beatific smile, if not on me, then on rugby football. This often shapeless and seemingly brutish sport was touched with grace and, for once, a thing of majesty was born. On an overcast day the Barbarians, under the leadership of John Dawes, championing the rapier, duelled with Ian Kirkpatrick's All Blacks who, while not the bludgeon, were certainly seen as a thicker blade. The encounter was elevated to a class of its own: a game apart.

There had been games of legend before, matches of swing and tension since: greatness had been seen. But there has never been a match quite like it to fulfil a rugby fantasy and to draw warm and romantic affection, not only from every nook and cranny of this divided corner of the rugby globe, but wherever the desire exists for the father to tell his son why he should want to run with the ball in his hands. This single match is a running source of inspiration.

The visitors, for their part, had been a sullen lot throughout their tour. They had even refused to do the haka. Awkwardly and inexpertly they did so before this final match. They went further. They let their guard and their hair down. And as Morgan's commentary tells, they called the challenge and ran. The Barbarians gladly took up the gauntlet.

If such a try was to be scored, it had to be the Barbarians who did so; a club that acknowledges no boundaries, understands no allegiance other than to themselves and the troubadour spirit of adventure. Had the try been scored by any other team it would never have been quite the same. National jealousies would have intervened; judgment would have been blinded by national thresholds. Playing the game on the hoof it was right that it should be the Barbarians who created the imperishable memory; rugby's most cherished moment.

Mervyn and I cheered with the best of them. Three minutes into the match, our seats barely warm, we were both back on our feet and our arms in the air celebrating the "fellow's" check. But, in an exchanged glance, there was sorrow already in our eyes and a hopeless sigh on our breath. A chance gone. But it is only a game. Well, of course. But try and tell the goblins that.

Bath aim to give Chilcott perfect send-off

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

BATH must get their league show back on the road at the Stoop Memorial ground today, in the knowledge that it is the end of the road for one of their number: Gareth Chilcott leaves the bright lights of rugby for the limelight of the pantomime stage before settling down to help Bath off the field in the commercial arena.

Should Chilcott, the 37-year-old former England and British Isles prop, leave on a winning note, after 17 years of senior rugby, he will be happy. His penultimate Courage Clubs Championship match was the defeat at Leicester which cheered the rest of the first division since it cut the champions' lead to two points.

But Chilcott has been associated with far more success than failure at Bath and his colleagues will move heaven and earth to ensure that Harlequins do not spoil his curtain call. Injury deprives Harlequins of three leading forwards — Jason Leonard, Alex Snow and Richard Langhorn — although their deputies include Troy Coker, the Australian lock.

At Sunbury, second-placed Leicester play London Irish. Leicester are the one English club to contribute to the Barbarians today, believing that further exposure against the All Blacks may assist Neil Back in his quest for a cap, and the vacancy at



Chilcott: curtain call

flanker goes to Bill Drake-Lee. The Irish, who have won their last three league games, received a jolt yesterday when Matt Keenan, the Western Samoan lock, opted to join Pontypool.

Keenan had been named in their second row in an intriguing Pacific pairing with the Fijian newcomer, Sam Domoni, but now joins the struggling Welsh club at a ground where he played for Samoa in the 1991 World Cup.

The Barbarians' fixture has disrupted the Heineken League programme, two first-division matches at Cardiff and Pontypool having been switched to tomorrow and two of the three survivors today kicking off early.

Neath and Pontypridd have projected two of their most promising players into the Welsh training squad which meets at Swansea on December 13. Barry Williams, Neath's hooker, is enjoying a good season, while David Manley, Pontypridd's wing, is the league's leading try-scorer with 11.

WALES SQUAD: Full backs: A Clement (Swansea), M Rayer (Cardiff). Wings: I Evans (Llanelli), S Hill (Cardiff), D Manley (Pontypridd), W Proctor (Llanelli), N Walker (Cardiff). Centres: S Gibbs (Swansea), N Davies (Llanelli), M Hall (Cardiff), R Bidgood (Newport). Stand-off halves: A Davies (Cardiff), N Jenkins (Pontypridd), A Williams (Swansea) scrum halves: R Moon (Llanelli), R Jones (Swansea), R Howley (Cardiff). Props: M Griffiths (Cardiff), J Davies (Neath), H Williams-Jones (Llanelli), R Evans (Llanelli), R Shaw (Swansea) Hookers: G Jenkins (Swansea), A Lamerton (Llanelli), B Williams (Neath) Locks: G Llewellyn (Neath), A Copsey (Llanelli), P Arnold (Swansea), D Jones (Cardiff), P Davies (Llanelli). Back-row forwards: H Taylor (Cardiff), H Stone (Cardiff), M Perego (Llanelli), E Lewis (Llanelli), A Gibbs (Newbridge), L Jones (Llanelli), S Quinnell (Llanelli), S Williams (Neath).

Miller set to become oldest player

By Christopher Irvine

TWO players are on the threshold of history this weekend. Martin Offiah, of Wigan and Great Britain, is two tries off reaching the 300 mark and entry into the all-time record scoring list. Sid Miller, of Littleborough Norwest Co-Op, is one game away from staking his own indefatigable claim in rugby league's annals.

If Offiah is the epitome of sporting magnificence and swaggering extravagance, Miller, at 51, is a monument to endurance and rigid self-discipline. Twenty-four years after ending his professional career at Leigh, he will today become the oldest player to appear in the Challenge Cup when Littleborough meet the Castleford side, Redhill, in the first round of this season's revamped Silk Cut competition.

As 64 non-league clubs embark on the Wembley trail — the first time they have been entered in such numbers — Miller, who has three decades of experience on his youngest teammate, Chris Picken, hopes to break his duck at Rochdale Hornets and Leigh from 1963-9, of never progressing beyond the first round of the Cup.

The minutest possibility of facing Offiah and Wigan, should Littleborough, the Pennine League premier division leaders, reach the fourth round, fires the incurable romantic in the father of three and



Offiah: unrivalled

grandfather: "The wife's threatened to break my legs when I'm asleep, unless I call it a day soon," he said. Undeterred, he reckons on a couple more seasons yet. "I'm the player-coach and pick the side, so my place is assured."

At Redhill, who lead the second division of the National Conference League, Miller has named himself at substitute and will enter the fray at loose forward or scrum half — the position Alex Murphy, in one of his first coaching signings, gave him at Leigh in 1967.

Twenty years on, Doug Laughton, then at Widnes, recognised a talent he wanted in Martin Nwokocha Offiah, even though it was fleetingly on television in the Middlesex Sevens. Negotiations began in an East End pub for the Rosslyn Park winger. At the conclusion, Laughton went off for a celebratory drink at his local and proclaimed: "I've got a feeling I've got something really special."

Offiah arrived a comparative unknown in 1987, yet, within a year, had established himself as Widnes's record try-scorer. Forty-three touchdowns were followed by 60 in 1988-9, when he scored the first of 26 tries for Britain.

The tally has tailed off marginally in the last two seasons, at 27, but for sheer majesty and invoking defensive mayhem, Offiah remains unrivalled. His 32nd career hat-trick against Oldham last week was evidence of that.

Chance for challengers to secure race berth

By Barry Pickthall

TWELVE readers of *The Times* discover the delights of an outdoor pursuit course this weekend in the hope of winning bursaries towards one of two berths in Chay Blyth's Ocean Challenge round-the-world yacht race in 1996.

The finalists have been chosen from more than 2,600 readers who applied to compete in this follow-up race to the British Steel Challenge last winter. They include a diplomat, an actress, chartered accountants, a midwife and a bank manager.

"We have had entries from just about every walk of life and these twelve finalists represent a good cross-section," Blyth said. He conceived the challenge of sailing east-west around the world against the prevailing winds with a solo voyage 22 years ago.

"They are in for a tough weekend of team exercises designed to test their ability to think on their feet, sort out problems quickly and work cohesively within a team."

Blyth, a former paratroop sargeant, is a past master at setting challenges for hopeful recruits. When he was seeking a crew from within the Paratroop regiment to race around the world in the first Whitbread race, he ordered them to gather from all over Europe outside Leeds Town Hall. Any who were late or failed to turn up were scratched from the list. "There was only one excuse note I would accept and that was a death certificate," he joked.

To the undoubted good fortune of all those taking part this weekend, the hard man of yachting has only a watching brief. Instead, the task of



putting these raw crewmates through their paces has been placed in the hands of John Maxwell and his team from the Management and Skills Training Organisation based at Kiddington, Oxfordshire. "We have a full programme of activities planned, many of them on or in some very cold water," Chris Drewett, one of the course directors, said. Though water may be the common denominator in many of the set tasks, sailing experience is not an essential requirement to compete in the Ocean Challenge.

"Of the 180 people who took up the British Steel Challenge last winter, only 25 per cent had done any sailing before," Drewett said. "We taught everyone how to sail during two years of intensive training. By the time the race started, most had competed more than 3,000 ocean miles."

For the two winners, this weekend is only the start to three years' training. Each is expected to devote their annual holidays and as many weekends as possible to sail training exercises out in the Western Approaches and Atlantic, preparing for what finishers in the challenge last winter described as "the toughest yacht race ever".

THE TIMES/OCEAN CHALLENGE FINALISTS: Ian Kydd, 45, a diplomat, from Twickenham, Middlesex; Lucy Duncan, 33, midwife, Wollaton, Nottingham; Duncan Heenan, 44, chartered accountant, Cheltenham, Gloucester; Lucy Fleming, 45, actress, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire; James Capstick, 34, police officer, Woking, Surrey; Philip Longhurst, 33, communications technician, Ipswich, Suffolk; Jo Dawson, 31, bank manager, Odiham, Hampshire; Robert Stubbs, 42, chartered accountant, Marston, Leeds; Jane Corefield, PR consultant, Godalming, Surrey; Michael Davies, 47, communications engineer, Southampton, Hampshire; Virginia Smith, 48, traveller, Shambrook, Bedfordshire; Sarah Rae, 30, civil servant, Battersea, London.

Whitaker triumphs by slender margin

MICHAEL Whitaker won the opening class of Bordeaux's Volvo World Cup qualifier with the 11-year-old Everest Lifestyle by the slenderest of margins yesterday, just 0.04sec separating him from Arnaldo Bologni, of Italy, and Mayday. It was Lifestyle's first victory following a four-month break, prior to the Berlin show three weeks ago, after the mare had suffered a twisted fetlock.

The competition was disappointing for the plethora of leading French riders, whose best finisher was Alexandra Ledermann and Ulior des Isles in fifth place. The Selle Francais stallion who only last year won the French championships for six-year-olds and, on this occasion, just edged out Mark Armstrong, of Britain, who was making his return to the international scene with the young Embatrador.

The Belgian rider, Philippe Lejeune, had convincingly consistent rounds with his two Roby Foulard's-sponsored horses, Blue Chip and Governor, who finished third and fourth respectively.

Camberley rivals contest crown

By John Goodbody

BRITAIN'S high standard in judo has disadvantages. In some weight categories, competitors who would be medal-winners with other countries are either having to move weight categories to enter international events or are simply not getting picked.

The British closed championships at Crystal Palace today will see two significant confrontations between fighters, all four of whom are eager to become No 1 in their category. Among the women, there is the light-heavyweight encounter between Kate Howey, the Olympic bronze medal-winner, and Josie Horton, who was fifth in the Games at Barcelona and, among the men, there is the scheduled lightweight meeting of Danny Kingston and Ian Freeman.

What makes the men's match particularly poignant is the fact that both Kingston and Freeman come from the same club, Camberley, and are coached by Mark Earle, who, together with Neil Adams, runs the British squad.

Kingston won the British Open title last April, beating Freeman in the final, and was Britain's most impressive male at the world championships two months ago. Freeman responded to that performance with a bronze medal in the European Junior Championships in November.

Adams contrasted the style of the pair when he said: "Ian is an extremely good tactical fighter, whereas Danny fires on all pistons all the time. He thinks he can throw everyone, although sometimes gets caught because he is attacking so much. I believe our selection problem may eventually be solved for us by Danny going up to light-middleweight."

Kingston has the physique to accommodate a heavier division, but this cannot be said for either of the light-heavyweight women. When you go over 72kg, the light-heavyweight limit, you sometimes meet heavyweight women from other nations weighing well over 100kg. Howey is favourite today. She beat Horton at the British Open and only lost the world title in the last seconds of the final.

One absentee from the championships is Nicola Fairbrother, the world light-weight champion and runner-up to Sally Gunnell in virtually every sportswoman of the year poll. She has a damaged wrist and also has had an adverse blood test finding.



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SATURDAY DECEMBER 4 1993

China puts wave of world records down to hard work


Le Jingyi: world record

The Chinese team at the world short-course swimming championships in Palma, Majorca, rejects charges of a state-backed drugs programme, **Craig Lord** reports

AT THE halfway stage of the inaugural world short-course championships, Chinese women had set seven world short-course records in two days and won six titles. The spectre of East Germany was at large here in Palma as coaches and swimmers from around the world turned the finger of suspicion on the new superpower of the pool.

Mustapha Larfaoui, the president of Fina, the international governing body, smiled. "Results have exceeded our expectations." This, he added, was evidence of the quality at the championships despite the absence of many Olympic champions, who are keener to concentrate on the traditionally more important summer long-course season.

Rivals of China were less happy. They asked how one nation could account for a third of all women in the world's fastest 25 swimmers in all events, as China has this year and pointed to the impressive physique of the two women responsible for two world records each, Dai Guohong, 16, and Le Jingyi, 18, in Palma, and refer to growth hormones as the cause.

The widely held view is that China, having learnt its swimming lesson from East Germany in the mid-Eighties, has committed itself to a carefully controlled training regime that involves swimmers taking steroids to aid growth and supply the means by which they can endure much greater levels of training.

Testing, as with East Germany, finds few culprits. Doctors, at least one connected with Fina, the international governing body, say that certain substances can be washed out of the system quick enough for detection to prove ineffective.

China has issued a tacit denial of a state-backed drugs programme. While saying that drug-taking does happen in China, "like other countries", Liu Jun, the team manager in Palma, said yesterday: "Our sports commission has a strict anti-drugs policy. We have testing in and out of competition with only 48 hours' notice. Zhou Xin, not on the national team, is our only positive test and is banned for two years."

Jun's explanation of the emergence of Chinese women is almost word perfect at each telling. The training regime is harsh, involving about 20,000 metres in water a day and weight training almost every day. Altitude training is also important.

"We have something like 50,000 swimmers going through our spare-time sports schools," Jun said. School children are selected for sport aged "six or seven, after bone measurements, other physiological tests are carried out on them and profiles are taken from parents. Its a different ideology to the West. By 14 years, it's too late".

So what of the men? First, young boys are attracted to other sports; Second, he says, "on average, unlike the women, Chinese men are 20cm shorter than the Americans and Europeans". Third, China's women "are more obedient, they work harder".

There are also substantial incentives. While a gold medal at Barcelona last year brought a reward of $15,000 (about £10,200), and $3,000 goes with a gold at Palma, $40,000 can be earned by winning a title at the National Games of China. "Competition between the provinces is very fierce. That is why they are tough when they come away," Jun said.

Larfaoui emphasised that Fina followed rigorous testing rules. Chinese swimmers had been subjected to unannounced out-of-competition testing twice this year and "all tests were negative". About 100 tests, including all winners and world record-breakers would be tested in Palma.

Pressed further on the subject, he broke away from his usual French to state pointedly in English: "If you select ten athletes from 100, someone will do well. Look at China, its population. Surely you can find something special."

While Zhou Xin, deputy head coach to China, felt short-course records had much further to fall, some, sympathised with a view expressed by Richard Quick, the United States assistant coach at Barcelona, when he said: "It's pharmaceutical warfare, and its getting very frustrating."

Yesterday the Chinese were predicting even better things to come.

Pickering's gold, page 36

All Blacks aim to bow out in traditional style

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the rest of us wallow in nostalgia — "Where were you when Gareth scored *that* try?" — the present-day Barbarians and New Zealanders must try to write their own grace notes to the All Blacks' tour which ends in Cardiff this afternoon. The last thing either side wants is the ghosts of the past hanging over them.

Yet inevitably they do: the Wilson Whineray try which crowned the 1964 encounter; the magic of the 1973 game which has been replayed on video so frequently that many can name the sequence of events from the time Phil Bennett began his jagged series of sidesteps to the moment Gareth Edwards dived immortally into the corner; the 1978 game, the last time the Barbarians played the All Blacks at the Arms Park, which served to wash away some of the sour memories from the touring side's game against Bridgend which preceded it.

Sean Fitzpatrick's team has given us some clear, sparkling moments to savour, others which have muddied the waters. Today's finale will be determined by the events of the last week and New Zealand's response to defeat by England.

They are the ones with the cohesion to lay down a style while the Barbarians, captained by Scott Hastings in the absence of his injured brother, Gavin, must make their way more informally into the game.

One wonders for how long the Barbarians, loyally sponsored by Scottish Amicable, will sustain their place of honour at the end of a major tour. This tradition began in 1948 to help the cash-strapped Australians of that year. A sell-out crowd of 51,000 will confirm today its money-raising potential but, as the difficulties in raising a properly-representative team become harder with each passing season, the fixture becomes less viable.

What if a major touring side were to be offered in future a return to the grand-slam days of internationals against all four home unions within the framework of a 13-match tour? It is not inconceivable, now that international rugby is becoming a more common currency — it was confirmed yesterday that between October of this year and next November Wales will play 15 matches — and Earle Kirton, assistant coach to New Zealand, recognises the possibility of such an occurrence.

"I don't think four internationals would be too demanding," Kirton said. "Next year the All Blacks play six tests in something like eight weeks, with France and South Africa coming in, and that's a phenomenal call."

Such fixture-making would certainly leave no room for the Baa-baas, so each time they play this fixture there is a heavy burden on them to justify the inclusion of the match for next time.

And almost every time they come up trumps: in the seven games they have played against the New Zealanders, only once have they really suffered devastation. That was the 36-3 defeat of 1964 in which an All Black, Ian Clarke, scored the Barbarians' only points.

> 'I should have played, damn it . . . What a game, of all games: what a one to miss.'
>
> Gerald Davies recalls the 1973 match, page 39

Clarke, who will be at Cardiff today as president of the New Zealand RFU, guested at prop for the Barbarians and kicked an old-style field goal against a XV including his brother, Don, whose fame as a goal-kicker was substantially greater.

Today, the Barbarians include three of the Scots laid waste by New Zealand last month and one, Gary Armstrong, who makes a welcome return to the representative arena even if he chooses not to display his talents on the international one.

That Scottish quartet will have ample reason for playing well while their union proffers as a travelling gift to the New Zealand management a video of the match between Scottish Districts and Auckland — in which Brian Renwick, the Hawick No 8, had his jaw broken by a punch and is now considering retiring from the game — for delivery to and reaction by the Auckland union next week.

For the third time on this tour, Neil Back pits his persuasive skills against New Zealand. "He's like a thorn in your side, with a guy like him you just can't get going. I rate him very highly. He does all the subtle things very well, he's very much like a New Zealand loose forward." Paul Henderson, the Southland flanker, said of Back. Praise indeed from an opponent who, like Back, did not make the international team this autumn, although in Henderson's case a calf injury held him back. There were times at Twickenham last Saturday when England needed the support that Back, the Leicester flanker, might have provided, yet it would be a brave man who argues against the retention of the big back row who played so well in England's victory.

One of the intriguing features today will be to see how Back combines with the lanky Rob Wainwright and the bullish Scott Quinnell, following in the 1973 footsteps of his father, Derek, against a New Zealand back row which might be said to lack a yard or two of pace itself. But victory? That should rest in All Black hands.

Chilcott send-off, page 39

TODAY'S TEAMS IN CARDIFF

BARBARIANS		NEW ZEALAND
A Clement (Wales)	15	J K R Timu (Otago)
A G Stanger (Scotland)	14	J W Wilson (Otago)
I S Gibbs (Wales)	13	F E Bunce (North Harbour)
S Hastings (Scotland, capt)	12	L Stensness (Auckland)
N T Walker (Wales)	11	V L Tuigamala (Auckland)
E P Elwood (Ireland)	10	M C G Ellis (Otago)
G Armstrong (Scotland)	9	S Forster (Otago)
N J Popplewell (Ireland)	1	C Dowd (Auckland)
T J Kingston (Ireland)	2	S B T Fitzpatrick (Auckland, capt)
E J A McKenzie (Australia)	3	O M Brown (Auckland)
R I Wainwright (Scotland)	6	B P Larsen (North Harbour)
P S C Johns (Ireland)	4	I D Jones (Northland)
O Roumat (France)	5	S B Gordon (Waikato)
N A Back (Leicester)	7	Z V Brooke (Auckland)
S Quinnell (Wales)	8	A R B Pene (Otago)

Referee: P Robin (France)

Replacements: 16 M R Rayer (Wales), 17 C Scholtz (Western Provnce), 18 R Howley (Cardiff), 19 M Griffiths (Wales), 20 S Williams (Neath), 21 A Lamerton (Llanelli).

Replacements: 16 S Howarth (Auckland), 17 S J Bachop (Otago), 18 J P Preston (Wellington), 19 M R Allen (Taranaki), 20 N Hewitt (Hawke's Bay), 21 M R Brewer (Otago).

MARC ASPLAND


Mabbutt at the Tottenham training ground yesterday with his manager, Ardiles

Mabbutt admits he may never play again

BY KEITH PIKE

DARK glasses shielded the injuries and there was no bitterness in his carefully chosen words, but Gary Mabbutt, 32, the Tottenham Hotspur captain, recognises that his 655th senior game of professional football may prove to have been his last.

A titanium metal plate screwed in between his right eye socket, which was fractured in three places, and the cheekbone, which suffered four breaks, will be a permanent legacy of the moment Mabbutt's head and John Fashanu's elbow came into contact ten days ago. David James, the surgeon who performed the operation, had told him he was lucky to have retained the sight in his right eye — "a centimetre either way and it could have been different".

Mabbutt said: "Of course, it is in the back of my mind that I might not play again, but I am optimistic. I have recovered from a broken leg before. Hopefully, there will be no long-term damage. I feel sure I will be back."

The Football Association, acting on an official complaint from Tottenham and having studied a video of the incident, yesterday gave Fashanu, the Wimbledon striker, seven days in which to submit his comments. Disciplinary action may follow, and Mabbutt yesterday refused to rule out the possibility he may take civil action.

Mabbutt, who had initially not wanted his club to pursue the matter, said yesterday that he now believed there was a need "to highlight the type of injuries that have been caused, in general terms, by elbows. It would have to be good for the game". Having seen the incident on video for the first time, he described it as a "very clumsy challenge . . . what could most definitely be said is that at that particular moment, John Fashanu was playing professional football without due care and attention".


Mabbutt after clash

Distress signal sparks search for yacht

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

TWO Whitbread Round the World Race yachts were diverted in the Roaring Forty latitudes of the Indian Ocean yesterday in an attempt to rescue the crew of the Italian entry, Brooksfield.

The 60-foot yacht, skippered by Guido Maisto, had not been located since the early hours of yesterday when the BT satellite tracking the fleet found it speeding at more than 16 knots before a westerly gale in sixth place.

The Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Canberra received a coded distress signal from the yacht, which failed to respond to all attempts to contact her.

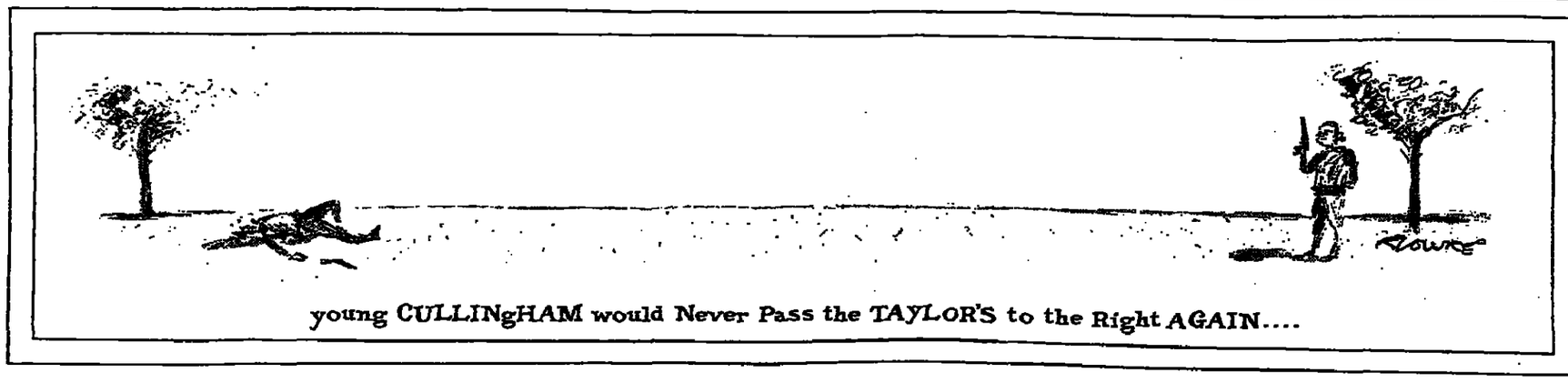
The 13 other yachts in the fleet were informed and two of the nearest, Brad Butterworth's American entry, Winston, and La Poste, skippered by the Frenchman, Daniel Malle, turned back towards Brooksfield's last known position west of the Kerguelen Islands. Facing winds of 40 knots, La Poste was not expected to reach the area until first light locally at 21:00GMT last night.

Ian Bailey-Willmot, the race director, said: "I am always concerned when there is doubt about the position of one of the race yachts, and we explore all avenues for resolving the situation quickly."

Brooksfield and her Whitbread 60 class rivals have been specifically designed to meet the highest safety standards and are fitted with watertight bulkheads to keep them afloat in the event of hitting an iceberg or whale. However, with no shipping in the area, and Australia 2,000 miles to the north east, the Brooksfield crew will know that their immediate hope of rescue rests on a rival crew.

Another Whitbread boat in trouble is the British entry, Dolphin & Youth Challenge, skippered by Matt Humphries, 22. He reported yesterday that the makeshift rudder they had fitted had broken away and that they had to resort to steering the disabled yacht with a spinnaker pole trailing over astern. They plan to put into the Kerguelen Islands to make repairs.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 14:00GMT yesterday, with miles to Fremantle) Whitbread 60 class: 1, Intrum Justitia (L Smith, Eur), 1,458 miles; 2, Tokio (C Dickson, NZ), 1,541; 3, Yamaha (R Field, NZ), 1,603; 4, Galicia 93 Pescanova (J de la Gandara, Sp), 1,628; 5, Winston (B Butterworth, US), 1,780; 6, Brooksfield (G Maisto, It), 1,948 (estimate); 7, Dolphin & Youth Challenge (M Humphries, GB), 2,485; 8, Woman's Challenge (D Riley, US), 2,580; 9, Herman Sahadachny (E Platon, Ukr), 2,691; 10, Odessa (A Verba, Ukr), 2,987. Maxi class: 1, NZ Endeavour (G Dalton, NZ), 1,625; 2, Merit Cup (P Fehlmann, Switz), 1,647; 3, La Poste (D Malle, Fr), 1,858; 4, Uruguay Natural (G Vanzini, Uru), 3,010.
☐ Information provided by BT





FRANCES BISSELL

Sumptuous foods to fill hampers

The Times cook, page 5



FRANCIS URQUHART

A prime minister's true confessions

Vices & virtues, page 6



WINTER COLOUR

Waxwings brighten our gardens

Feather report, page 18

MARATHON INSPIRATION FROM ANIMALS

Page 8

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 4 1993

Father Christmas imposter **Alan Coren** twinkles, beams and has a tempting taste of absolute power

The day I played Santa



STEPHEN MARKESON

Alan Coren passes the Santa credibility test with Laura McCabe, 4 — "To find everything I said was believed was so unprecedented as seriously to threaten my integrity"

Look at the photograph. Do you realise what you are seeing? You are seeing a miracle. If you believe in George Bernard Shaw, a miracle is an act which creates faith, and this is what is happening in the photograph. If you do not believe in George Bernard Shaw, of course, you and I have little left to say to one another, since you are clearly a sceptic in the matter of old men with long white beards, but I am here to tell you that there is a large body of opinion which puts you in the minority. True, that large body is made up of lots of small bodies, and they would put you in the minority only in Selfridge's grotto, but their faith is no less commendable for that, especially if you are the old man they believe in. Because you wouldn't believe how delightful being believed in is.

But to the miracle in the photograph: Laura McCabe (for it is she) was not 100 per cent certain, when she tiptoed tentatively around the corner of my basement snug, that Santa Claus existed, or that, if he did, I was he. Laura was about 93 per cent certain. That is roughly par for the course when you are four years old and forced to inhabit a ghastly world where doubt may so carelessly be thrown on elfin factories and airborne reindeer, and where Santas of different shapes and sizes not only wander abroad but also pop up on umpteen television channels and are not averse to whipping off their whiskers to plug their latest album.

If you are four, you have to know where you stand; more to the point, you have to know where you sit, because it is highly inadvisable to clamber aboard the knee of the first old man in wellies who claims to be in a position to deliver a Sindy doll. So Laura quite properly stood there for a bit, scrutinising me with the wide but penetrating eyes that tinies have, while she dealt with the business of the missing 7 per cent.

That is always Santa's trickiest moment. What must he do to create faith? He must, above all, not go "Ho, ho, ho!" because, up close, "Ho, ho, ho!" is a terrifying thing. I was strongly advised against doing it, but nevertheless tried it just the once (you feel compelled to, if you're Santa), and the small face crumpled, and then it yelled, and then it fled, and then, I was subsequently informed by an irritated elf, the entire family shot straight back to Ilford without spending a bean, an outcome which does precious little to sustain the seasonal goodwill so essential to the Santa-Selfridge relationship.

What you are recommended to do instead of going "Ho, ho, ho!" is twinkle. This is not easy, because you have to do it with just your eyes. If you try twinkling with your smile, a stress is put upon your whiskers which can quite easily create no faith at all, because even the most gullible tot, suddenly confronted by a Santa with a clean-shaven face and a bearded knee, will smell a rat.

So you crinkle your eyes up, praying that what is now shining from them is a reassuring beam rather than a louche leer, and you gently ask their name, and once they have whispered it, the Greenland ice is generally broken and they take one small pace forward, so then you ask how old they are, and they take another small pace forward, and by now they are close enough for you to look into their eyes to see if they believe in you, because, believe me, you can tell, and if they are still unsure, you need to work a bit harder.

What you do not need is parental intervention. That is the greatest threat to the opening manoeuvres. So often, if a child is initially too awed to speak, a parental head will suddenly materialise around the chipboard partition and shout: "GO ON, DARREN, TELL SANTA YOUR NAME!" This not only traps the hapless tiny between two different terrors, it creates an adult conspiracy between parent and Santa which isolates the child utterly.

Parents can be even more astonishingly insensitive than that: I was getting on famously with one erstwhile nervous kiddie until his father informed him that Santa didn't bring toys to children who picked their noses, did you, Santa? Unable, naturally, to reply to this, certainly not in the manner I should have preferred, ie, leap from my armchair and stick one on daddy, I was left with no other course than to crank up the twinkle a couple of notches, but I could tell that it was too late. I had lost the child irrecoverably.

Indeed, the only unhappy thing about playing Santa is being compelled to sit silent witness to parental clodhoppery. Why do so many mothers and fathers feel compelled to tell their children not to be shy, to sit up straight, to look at Santa when he's talking to him? Are they so witless as to be unable to recognise that the more they insist upon the toddler's acting in a manner which reflects well on its parents, the less likely it is that this will be the conclusion reached?

But, fortunately, there are very many happy things about playing Santa, too. To be weighed in the balance by Laura and not found wanting is unquestionably one of the happiest of them; she soon decided to go for 100 per cent, did the thing with the knee, and, as you can see from the snapshot, instinctively glanced up towards the spot whence the goodies would be delivered as soon as she received confirmation that that was indeed how I did it. In common with all the little girls, she left the aerodynamics at that; little boys, on the other hand, were unsettlingly prone to enquire where flying reindeer fitted in with the extra-terrestrial scheme of things, what was its time-warp factor, all that, and I am afraid to say that sustaining faith by lying is a moral conundrum on which a Santa's bet has perforce to be hedged. The thing is not to let it go to your head; as a father and a hack, I have to tell you that suddenly to find myself in a position where everything I said was believed was so unprecedented an experience as seriously to threaten my integrity. For the first time in my life, I had a lever and somewhere to stand, and the temptation to take a crack at moving the world was well-nigh irresistible. You will have heard about absolute power.

Luckily, there were more important things to do, if trickier. When you are Father Christmas and you have established that rapport which comes only when you have invited a tiny to whisper a list of desiderata in your ear, and she says she wants a pony, and you say is that My Little Pony, and she says no, a real pony, how do you escape from the snare of unkeepable promises? You end up talking like a politician, is how. You twinkle on about short-term difficulties but long-term possibilities, you make flexible undertakings with in-built loopholes, and when all else fails, you shift responsibility, eg, "I may have to have a word with Mummy about that, Sam, it's possible she doesn't feel the same way about tarantulas," which allows Santa to cede his omnipotence to caring concern without losing face.

All in all, then, a great day; but I ended it thanking God that a day was all that it had been. As a hack, I was more than happy to return to the trade's traditional prerogative of power without responsibility. Power with responsibility scared the hell out of me.

Best grottos nationwide, page 2

An ugly gap in the walls of legislation

In the first of a new campaigning series, **Peter Barnard** urges legislation to protect drystone walls

My walls have ears of corn. Also sleeping snails and bits of ribbon left behind by partying five-year-olds. From my walls protrude any old iron bars, used to support loganberries. My walls are crumbling, sagging, toppling. I love my walls and so do others, but they aren't having them. My walls are not for nicking, you put my walls on a lorry and cart them away, I come round and burn down your builder's yard.

You may have deduced from the above that I get upset just thinking about drystone walls. There are thousands of miles of them, on Dartmoor, in the Cotswolds, all up and down the Yorkshire dales, in Wales and Scotland and Ireland. They define much of the countryside. They enhance the environment. Small creatures call them home. They are an amenity. People come from miles around to look at them, run a hand over them, pick up a stone and put it down again.

They are disappearing. One minute you've got a drystone wall, the next somebody has turned it into a porch. "Rural crime on the increase" ran recent headlines, the stories citing bored surburban teenagers (the broadsheets) and scrumpy addicts (the tabloids). Nothing about lorries arriving at dead of night, nothing about farmers flogging walls to builders and garden centres.

Not that I blame the farmers. For every one with a Roller, there are 20 driving tractors — and that's to church. Yorkshire hill farmers are having a hard time and have had enough of watching people steal their walls. So now they sell them, for £15 a ton and more, and there is nowt to be done about it.

The trouble is the legislation: there isn't any. You might think that the various Acts which protect our hedgerows would apply to drystone walls, but no. You might think that an "area of outstanding natural beauty", in which planners will crawl all over your plans for a modest chicken run, might include some sort of say-so over the drystone walls therein. Afraid not.

Planners tell me they would like to help, but. There is not much to be done, although they light up briefly at the words "change of use". If you can prove that a landowner has sold a wall in order that it can be turned into a house, the planners could force the seller to apply for permission. Unfortunately most of us are not about to creep along behind a lorry load of wall in order to discover its next incarnation, least of all when the wall on the lorry belongs to a neighbour.

In one respect planners hinder preservation, often insisting that local stone is used for new buildings. Here they are on a hiding to nothing, but planning law that obliges the use of a particular material without at the same time protecting it in its most natural embodiment needs reform.

Do not hold your breath. The trend of official thinking is against preservation, not in favour of it, whatever rhetoric from time to time washes over receptive Tory audiences. The reality is that upland sheep farmers have had their grants shrunk over the past few years. The principle may be politically correct in the context of butter mountains and wine lakes but some of these subsidies are specifically aimed at helping farmers preserve drystone walls and other amenities. Shrink those and you are tacitly encouraging farmers to take down walls, not prop them up.

The massive (and impressive) Countryside Survey, published by the environment department this month, shows a 7 per cent drop in the milage of walls in Britain between 1984 and 1990. In key areas, especially of England and Wales, the situation is much worse: a Council for the Protection of Rural England survey in the Cotswolds suggests that some 15 per cent of drystone walls have disappeared in the past few years.

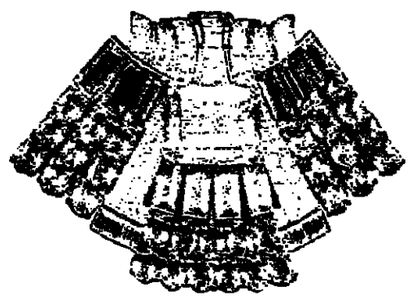
This is an era when country matters are high on the public agenda, when eager refugees from urban life are signing up for drystone wall building courses in record numbers, when walls excite such passion that three years ago, after a mysterious stranger with a mechanical digger demolished a gritstone wall in Derbyshire, local people described the assailant as "sick" and campaigned to have the wall rebuilt and listed as an ancient monument.

Right on to that. But for every foot of wall that catches the public eye, a mile vanishes without a murmur. One sheet of A4 would suffice to amend the existing legislation so that walls get proper protection from the winds of indifference. I'll draft it for nothing. Is there anybody out there?

Another hit from

Elton John:

His Jewellery.



Elton John is an avid and discerning buyer of fabulous jewellery, and he has now decided to part with over 100 pieces from his collection.

At this evening sale, friends, fans and jewellery collectors from around the world will be able to buy some truly stunning examples of the jewellers art.

There are pieces by Cartier, Tiffany, Bulgari, Van Cleef and Arpels and Gucci and many other fine jewellers, with dates ranging from the Art Deco period right up to the present.

For further details or a catalogue, please call Alexandra Rhodes, Monday to Friday, on 071 408 5311.

London,
14th December 1993

a sale of
The Elton John
Collection:
Jewellery.

SOTHEBY'S
FOUNDED 1744

The pick of Santa's grottos nationwide

LONDON

☐ **A Christmas Carol:** Celebrate a Victorian Christmas with animated animals, soft toys, and Santa's helpers in period costume. *Harrods, 87 Brompton Road, SW1X (071-730 1234). Monday-Tuesday 10am-6pm, Wednesday-Friday 10am-7pm, Saturday 10am-6pm, free. Souvenir photos £5.95.*

☐ **Animals of Farthing Wood:** Eco-friendly grotto based on Colin Dann's immensely popular *Farthing Wood* books. *Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1 (071-629 1234). Monday-Saturday 9.30am-8pm, Thursday 9.30am-7pm, free.*

☐ **Teddy World:** Relax amid the water fountains as you watch teddies make your presents. *D. H. Evans, Oxford Street, W1 (071-629 8800). Monday-Saturday 11am-6pm, free entry, gift £2, photo £3.50.*

NATIONWIDE

☐ **Harlequin World:** Lots of colour and Santa's harlequin helper. Post-box for letters to Santa. *Debenhams, Trinity Centre, Union Street, Aberdeen AB1 (0224 573111). Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, Thursday 10am-7pm, £1 includes gift.*

☐ **Santa's Magic Grotto:** See Santa's helpers busily making your presents and loading his sleigh. *The Walks Shopping Centre, Basingstoke BG21 (0256 26022). Monday-Saturday 10am - 5.30pm, Thursday 10am-9pm. Free entry, £1.75 with gift.*

☐ **Aladdin:** Puppets depict scenes from the Aladdin story. *Castle Court, Royal Avenue, Belfast BT1 (0232 234591). Monday-Friday 9am-9pm, Saturday 9am-5.30pm, £2 entry and gift.*

☐ **Santa Special:** Ride a real steam engine from Kidderminster. Hop off at Arley and explore Santa's grotto while mum and dad try mulled wine. *Severn Valley Railway, Railway Station, Bewdley, Worcs DW12 (0299 403816). Saturday and Sunday until December 20, then every day, including Christmas Eve, 9.45am-4.15pm, £6.*



Alan Coren in his once-only stint as Santa

☐ **Santa's Wildlife Grotto:** Visit Santa in his "Cloud Cuckoo Land", a massive 9,000sq ft play area right by the elephants. *Cricket St Thomas's Wildlife Park, near Chard, Somerset (0460 30755). Monday-Sunday 10am-5pm, free entry, grotto £3.*

☐ **Enchanted Grotto:** See Santa feed his reindeer, have your face painted and pet the animals. *Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 (0206 331 292). Today and tomorrow, 11am-3pm, December 11-23, 11am-2pm, free with entry to zoo, adults £4.95, children £3.*

☐ **A Victorian Christmas:** Includes a singing clock. *Metro Centre, Gateshead NE11 (091-493 2040). Monday-Sunday 10am-8pm, free.*

☐ **Aladdin:** Scenes from the Aladdin tales, plus breakfast, brunch or high tea with Santa. *House of Fraser, Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 (041-221 3880). Monday-Saturday 10am-6pm, £2.50 entry, £1.50 lucky dips.*

☐ **Teddy Bear Shop:** Includes electric sleigh ride to Santa's winter wonderland. *Hammonds, 1 Paragon Square, Hull HU1 (0482 26951). Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm, free entry, gifts £1.50-£2.*

☐ **Peter Pan:** Miniature figures from the Peter Pan story. *John Lewis, The Headrow, Leeds LS1 (0532 431 313). Monday-Friday 10am-5pm, Thursday 10am-9pm, Saturday 10am-6pm, entry 99p.*

☐ **A Letter to Santa:** Ever wondered how your letters get to Santa? Animated scenes reveals the secret. *Clayton Square Shopping Centre, Liverpool L1 (051-709 6627). Monday-Saturday 9.30am-5.30pm, Thursday 9.30am-9pm, free entry, £1.20 per gift.*

☐ **The Snowman:** Scenes from Raymond Briggs's book, plus a magical ride on Santa's sleigh. *Arndale Shopping Centre, Central Luton LU1, (0582 412636). Monday-Saturday 9.30am-5.30pm, Thursday 9.30am-7pm, free entry, £1.50 per gift.*

☐ **Enchanted Forest:** Wander through animated scenes before meeting Santa. *Co-Op, 70 St Stephens Street, Norwich NR1 (0603 625 201). Monday-Saturday 9.30am-5pm, Thursday 9.30am-8.30pm, £1 entry including gift.*

☐ **Teddy Bears' Picnic:** Breakfast with Santa and his helpers. *Dingles, Royal Parade, Plymouth PL1 (0752 266611). Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm, Thursday 9am-9pm, £1.99.*

☐ **Santa's World:** Animated figures, sweets, presents and tea and coffee for mum and dad, all organised by the local newspaper. *The West Britain, Lemon Quay, Truro TR1 (0872 74555). Wednesday only 4.30pm-8pm, £1.50.*



The majestic view looking into Amberley Castle, West Sussex, from the crenellated battlements, with the gatehouse towers and portcullis on the right

New conquest for old castle

Ralph Hawkins savours life in an 11th-century pile with all mod cons

The gardener, a thick-set, bearded fellow, trundled by on a mini-tractor as we turned into the driveway of Amberley Castle. The twin towers of the gatehouse and the massive curtain wall stood out against the fading light of the last afternoon of summer. A snow-white Pyrenean mountain dog sat upright on the lawn, vetting arrivals attentively but silently.

For centuries the castle has served as a private home, never open to the public, not even at a price through national heritage turnstiles.

In 1989, the new owners, Joy and Martin Cummings, persuaded their bankers that a £2.5 million investment was sound and prepared a revolution for the castle which, since the 11th century, had entertained only kings and queens, bishops and barons, courtiers and latterly eccentric Americans rich enough to indulge a hobby of collecting selected European castles. A string of awards has followed.

The castle is in that part of the country which had no difficulty persuading William that this was a land worth conquering. It stands beneath the South Downs in West Sussex, holding off the occasional flooding of the Wild Brooks, a stretch of marshlands on the river Arun, and dominating the chocolate-box village with which it shares a name.

The A24 and A29 head south through a world of sound-absorbing woodlands, grand residences and gentle, rolling hills about as craggy as a teddy bear's profile. Here is a region in which the heaviest industries, one is tempted to assume, would be the production of real ale, soft turf and elegant furniture for large, manicured gardens. It is perfect country for a hotel selling peace and tranquillity, and the castle is the perfect setting.



Archway to the restaurant

Beyond the heavy portcullis through into the bailey, the enclosing crenellated walls offer immediate hideaway snugness. The world is shut off, a curtain drawn on worry and woe. The staff is attentive yet unobtrusive.

Amberley Castle hangs heavy with history. It once boasted the latest in medieval sanitation and the surviving *garde robes* tower illustrates the claim; it has a gruesomely well-preserved *oubliette*, which leaves the imagination to ponder what sinister uses the bishops of Chichester had for it during their four centuries of ownership.

The lease once belonged to Elizabeth I; modern diners occupy the Queen's Room, a splendid hall with barrel-vaulted ceiling, lancet windows and a restored mural marking a visit by Charles II and his queen, Catherine of Braganza; Cromwell sent a general to discipline a tax-dodging royalist and left the Great Hall in ruins, still there today; corridors and rooms are rich in exquisite antique furniture, suits of armour and racks of halberds.

It sounds sombrely masculine and no doubt it was until Mrs Cummings wove a spell of feminine magic with colour, fabric, ornament, flower and the particularly inspired touch of a family of pure white peacocks strutting the lawns. Hers is the hand which placed amusing soft toys in unexpected places. The most imposing and least feminine is Harry the gorilla sitting before the white, Saxon chess pieces awaiting a challenger to take up the black, Norman cause.

Each of the 14 rooms is named after a Sussex castle. In addition to the telephone and television (accompanied by a video and well-stocked film library) some rooms have four-poster beds; all have bathrooms stocked with fluffy bathrobes, a selection of toiletries from Anita Roddick's collection and a Jacuzzi; some rooms have his-and-hers bathrooms.

Our bathroom had what every self-respecting castle should have — a heavily curtained secret backdoor exit. It was locked but, thankfully, could be unlocked and led up a spiralling stone staircase to the gatehouse tower battlements. The view from up there is breathtaking.

Nigel Boschetti, the executive head chef, formerly of the Grosvenor House and Mayfair hotels in London, is a culinary conjurer who has complemented *table d'hote* and *à la carte* menus with a succession of magical flavours in dishes inspired by the history of the place. I have never started a day better than on the Amberley breakfast of two poached eggs on a toasted muffin, with smoked salmon and hollandaise sauce.

There is no Muzak at Amberley, no smoking in the restaurant and no air conditioning. The road is too distant to impose traffic noise, and the only hint of the world outside is the rustle of newspapers.

Beyond the castle walls, if the guest really wished to turn the visit into an exploration, history is further served by the magnificent mosaic remains of a Roman villa at Bignor, only five miles to the west. Arundel Castle to the south is even closer and the coastal resorts are not much farther away.

My wife and I share a fascination for perusing the gravestones of ancient cemeteries and on our last afternoon at Amberley, with the gloom gathering rapidly, we again came across the gardener, a helpful chap of fine yeoman stock, we imagined. He cheerily guided us to our intended destination, the village church.

After dinner that evening, we discovered that the "gardener" was, in fact, the co-owner, Mr Cummings, a former naval man as much at home, it seemed, putting his back into heavy outdoor work as in planning the next item of comfort for his guests.

● *Amberley Castle offers luxury accommodation from £95 to £225 per room, per night, including full breakfast, newspaper and VAT; or luxury two-day castle breaks for two for £295 Sunday to Thursday (£395 Friday and Saturday).*

THE SACRED ART OF TIBET

A SPECIAL VISIT TO TIBET, BHUTAN, NEPAL AND INDIA
21 March - 16 April 1994

A unique opportunity exists for twenty travellers to join a journey to the Himalayan Kingdoms of Bhutan and Nepal and onward to Tibet to learn more of the magnificent, yet scarcely understood sacred art of Tibet.

Our visit will be all the more memorable due to our good fortune in obtaining permission to visit the Paro Festival in the truly Buddhist Kingdom of Bhutan. Here in the splendour of their traditional costumes we shall have a rare opportunity to see and begin to understand the meaning of Tibetan religion and art and gain further insights.

For centuries, Tibet has lured Buddhist pilgrims and foreigners alike despite its geographical isolation and unmapped lands. Bhutan, 'The Land Of The Dragon' is hesitantly opening its doors a little and allowing a few travellers across its borders. Today's visitor is shown a fascinating society which is untouched by the modern world. Isolated like Tibet by the towering peaks of the Himalayas, this has ensured that its culture and traditions have remained constant for hundreds of years.

It will be an outstanding journey of appreciation of these mountain peoples, their art and the stunning scenery they inhabit. The journey will end aptly in Dharamsala where we hope to be granted an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly London (Gatwick) to Delhi.

DAY 2 Delhi Stay 2 nights at the Taj Mahal Hotel.

DAY 3 Delhi Morning drive around New Delhi. Afternoon visit to the Quib Complex.

DAY 4 Delhi - Paro Fly from Delhi to Paro and stay 3 nights at the Olathang Hotel.

DAYS 5 & 6 In Paro Attending the various celebrations and festivals of the unique Paro Spring Festival. Also visit the Rimpung Dzong, with commanding views of the whole valley, it is a treasure house of art and writings.

DAY 7 Paro - Thimpu Drive to Thimpu, Bhutan's capital since 1955. Stay 2 nights.

DAY 8 Thimpu Visits will be arranged to the Tashico Dzong, Bhutan's administrative and religious centre on the banks of the river and to the historic Simtokha Dzong which house the Rigney School for Monastic Studies.

DAY 9 Tongsa Drive through the thickly-forested mountain roads to Tongsa for an overnight stay. See the impressive Tongsa Dzong, the ancestral home of Bhutan's royal family.

DAY 10 Thimpu Return to Thimpu at a leisurely pace through the magical countryside. Overnight Thimpu.

DAY 11 Paro - Kathmandu Fly to Kathmandu and stay 2 nights at the Oberoi Soaltee Hotel.

DAY 12 Kathmandu See the richly-carved Pagoda Temples of Durbar Square, the museum and the Monastery of the Living Goddess. In the afternoon drive to the Great Buddhist Stupa of Swayambhunath.

DAY 13 Kathmandu/Lhasa Fly to Lhasa and stay 3 nights at the Holiday Inn (incongruous as it might sound, it is the most comfortable hotel in Tibet). Remainder of day at leisure.

DAYS 14 & 15 Lhasa Visits will be made to the Great Portala Palace. See the decorated halls with their fine wall paintings, the magnificent funerary pagodas, ritual vessels and porcelain. We will also see the 7th century Jo Khang Monastery, and the Summer Palace.

DAY 16 Xigaze Drive across the vast Yangbainon Plateau and cross the Brahmapautra River to Xigaze for a 2 night stay.

DAY 17 Xigaze Visit the Tashilumpo Monastery, one of the six great centres of Lamaism. See the Panchem Lama's throne in the Great Hall, the 15th century wall paintings and some fine statues.

DAY 18 Lhasa Return to Lhasa for a 2 night stay visiting the Gyanse Monastery and the Great Lakes en route.

DAY 19 Lhasa A leisurely day visiting a market and the Drepling hillside monastery built in the early 1400's.

DAY 20 Lhasa - Kathmandu Return by air to Kathmandu for a 2 night stay.

DAY 21 Kathmandu Drive to Patan, visit Durbar Square and the Palace Complex. In the afternoon visit the Great Holy Temple complex of Pashipatinah, the holiest of Nepal's shrines.

DAY 22 Kathmandu - Delhi Fly to Delhi for overnight stay.

DAY 23 Delhi - Dharamshala Fly to the cool mountain air of the old hill station of Dharamshala for a 2 night stay.

DAY 24 Dharamshala Today we hope to be granted an audience with his Holiness the Dalai Lama.

DAY 25 Dharamshala - Delhi Return by air and transfer to Taj Mahal Hotel for overnight stay.

DAY 26 Delhi Day at leisure or optional excursion to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. Evening departure with British Airways from Delhi to London (Gatwick).

DAY 27 London Arrive in the morning.

PRICE PER PERSON

In twin bedded room	£4495
Single room supplement (not available in Bhutan)	£660

Prices subject to surcharge

Price includes: The price is fully inclusive, with the exception of meals in Delhi.

Not included: Travel insurance from £76.

Note This itinerary will include some high altitude visits, everyone will be obliged to consult their GP.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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(7 days a week during office hours)

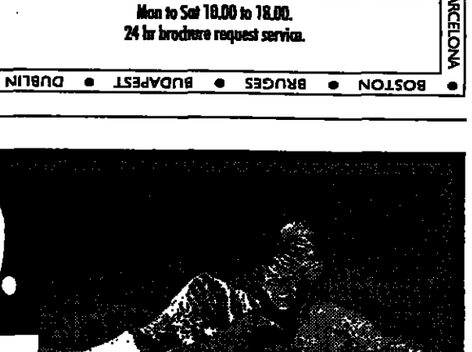
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Invented by slaves, capoeira is a heady mix of music, fight and acrobatics. **Tim Marsh** takes the floor


PETER TREVYNOR

Sylvia Bazzarelli leads the capoeira group. Now a national sport in Brazil, capoeira is spreading around the globe with more than 1,000 people learning in Britain

Martial dance to a Brazilian beat

When it comes to exercise, I am with Dolly Parton. "Sure I bought all those Jane Fonda videos," the curvaceous country and western singer once said. "I love to sit and eat cookies and watch 'em." But with the emergence of capoeira, even the stodgiest couch potatoes are peeling themselves from the sofa.

A flamboyant blend of dance, martial arts, acrobatics and music, capoeira was invented by African slaves shipped to Brazil in the 18th century. Prohibited from all forms of fighting by nervous owners, they developed a form of self-defence disguised as a dance.

Bouts take place within a small circle known as a *roda*. Competitors, or capoeiristas, crouch low to the ground and lunge at each other with their feet, springing and cartwheeling out of reach. But at no point is any physical contact made. And with an infectious accompaniment kicked up by Afro-Brazilian drums, tambourines, traditional stringed *berimbaus* and crowd chants, the atmosphere at contests is more carnival than fight.

Once officially outlawed by the Brazilian government, capoeira is now a national sport, and its popularity is spreading around the globe.

More than 1,000 people are learning the art in Britain. "It's particularly popular with women," says Sylvia Bazzarelli, who founded the London School of Capoeira in Islington with her partner, Marcos Aurelio, six years ago. "They can develop the skills without much heavy contact. They know nobody is going to punch them. Women can be as agile, as fast as men, and as tricky as well — the game involves a lot of planning. You are constantly thinking ahead, often three moves. It's a game of physical chess which suits both sexes."

Lucy Rutsaert, 22, knew she had to try capoeira from the moment she saw a demonstration in Belgium two years ago. "It's so beautiful, so fluid. At first you think you will never be able to do all the movements, but they do come."

"It is hard work," admits Tom Marsden, a 23-year-old merchant banker. "I've done all the traditional sports, such as a rugby, but capoeira demands a different kind of fitness."

As much ballet as martial art, all capoeira movements are danced, and the music seems to take some of the sting from aching joints and blows which accidentally connect. Students


Close-quarter action in the *roda*

laugh when they mistime a tumble, and beam when an intricate handspring comes off.

Nobody claims the game is easy, however. The highest master grades take 30 to 40 years to achieve. And although Ms Bazzarelli may be perfectly pleasant socially, when it comes to capoeira workouts she is hell in tights.

Three-hour lessons regularly include two-hour aerobic warm-ups — no breaks — which Ms Bazzarelli concludes by sweeping a large stick across the floor, forcing her students to skip, cartwheel and back flip out of the way. "And that's not even the tough part," shudders Elvira Mancussi, 28. "After that you have to sing in front of everyone."

Not only do budding capoeiristas have to acquire astonishing physical agility, they must also master the traditional stringed *berimbau* instrument and the Portuguese chants which accompany all *roda*. "The contestants are the musicians as well," Ms Bazzarelli explains. "The *berimbau* sets the tempo of the game, and in the past would warn against the approach of the police. The songs also used to protect the true meaning of capoeira. They are very subtle and seldom mean what they say."

"It was embarrassing at first," says Ms Mancussi. "I never sang before in my life, never mind in front of a class. But you get used to it. You just sort of drop all your inhibitions. It's a very holistic sport, a complete experience for the body and mind."

The sport also integrates a distinct social element. At the end of every lesson groups sit and unwind by chatting for 20 minutes. Romance is not unusual, Ms Bazzarelli says, with several marriages among students. "Capoeira tends to have a very strong community side. You mix with people you wouldn't otherwise meet, and learn to move with them very intimately, without touching."

Despite the considerable physical demands, anybody can try capoeira, she says. "We have people from all backgrounds, ranging from 20-year-olds to a man in his late fifties. Capoeira is not just for athletes."

Introductory courses, however, are specifically designed to deter fickle fitness fiends. "We ask beginners to attend either four Sundays in a row, or they can come for a whole week, Monday to Friday, every night. At the end of the week they decide whether they want to continue or not. At first you will be very stiff and scared by the amount of acrobatics involved. But at the end of even the beginners' week you will be surprised at what you are doing."

● *The London School of Capoeira, 3a Aberdeen Studios, 22 Highbury Grove, London N5 (071-354 2084). One-week beginners' workshops £90, concessions £80. Ten regular classes, £60. One-hour private class £25, children's class £5.*

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

SUE ATKINS

Inaugural chair, British Ladies Boxing Association



Where would you go?
The outskirts of Penzance, in Cornwall. Quiet and rural, time seems to stand still down there — although I would avoid going between May and September when the area is busy with tourists.

How would you get there?
By road, but not motorway. I would drive myself in the van I use for my gardening job — it takes about five hours from Mitcham in Surrey, where I live.

Where would you stay?
In a stone-built cottage with an open fireplace. I like to go self-catering so I can please myself.

Who would be your perfect companion?
Bosie the dog, my constant companion for ten years. I think it's good not to have any human company for a while, so I'd leave my boyfriend behind and hope to find him still there when I got back.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take?
Walking boots.

What medicines would accompany you?
The first-aid kit in the van, which contains paracetamol, plasters, TCP, and so on.

What would you have to eat?
Plenty of fresh bread, shepherd's pies, and cream teas.

What would you have to drink?
Gallons of tea — I'm not keen on alcohol.

Which books would you take to read?
If I were going away for any longer I'd take the complete works of Oscar Wilde, but as this is a weekend, I would take something I could finish in a few hours — such as a Catherine Cookson novel.

What music would you listen to?
Country — Kitty Wells and Hank Williams.

What film would you watch?
Any James Stewart film.

Would you play any games or sport?
I'd like to go pony trekking. I could probably count on one hand the number of times I've been horse-riding.

What piece of art would you like to have there?
A restful painting — a Constable perhaps.

Who would be your least welcome guest?
A lost city slicker.

Which newspapers or journals would you read?
Boxing News and *Horticulture Week*.

What three things would you leave behind?
My business diary, my garden tools and my boxing gloves. As I train women three nights a week, I'd like to have a break from boxing.

What three things would you most like to do?
1. Have breakfast in a Penzance coffee shop and watch the people go by. 2. Explore the local ancient stone circles and walk Bosie along the beach — he loves the sea. 3. Look at the old tin mines; I've always fancy converting one of the stone buildings where the top workings were housed into a home.

What luxury would you take?
Bubble bath for a long soak after walking all day.

Who would you send a postcard to?
My mum.

What souvenir would you bring home?
Happy memories and the smell of the Cornish air.

What would you like to find when you got home?
A gym full of women trained to put on a five-fight exhibition show before Christmas. At the moment, some of women are good enough, but the rest need more work.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

5/5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date appearing in the national broadsheet newspapers



What the papers said: a book-buyer's guide

by **Derwent May**


The tribute to Marc Boxer

3/5 **Marc and spark:** *The Collected and Recollected Marc*, edited by Mark Amory (Fourth Estate £25), contains memories of the cartoonist Marc Boxer by his friends, and a selection of his drawings. In *The Sunday Telegraph*, Russell Davies said it was "a handsome book...Craig Brown in his introduction quotes Marc as saying that once he'd got someone's hair right, the rest of the face tended to fall into place. On the evidence of this collection, he almost never got the hair wrong." Davies liked the eyeless faces — "they are the people who don't look at you, don't take you in, are not fundamentally interested in anyone else. Eyelessness silently makes the point." He concluded, "this book must be the most apt and accusing gallery of the great, good, bad and completely incorrigible since Beerbohm's".

The editor of *The Guardian*, Peter Preston, writing in his own paper, thought it "a lovely but in-between sort of book. Five years on, the cartoons of a couple of decades seem out of time and the remembrances more gossamer than flesh." It was the caricatures, he thought, that "leap from the pages, deft and delirious summations". He hoped that "we shall get a book that makes sense of the life. In the meantime, this is a fragrant appetiser". In *The Spectator*, John Gross wished there had been more of Boxer's "imaginary portraits — clubmen, off-the-shoulder-Sloanes...There is room for an even more collected Marc."
Col cms: 40

4/5 **All Hale:** Praise on every side for Sir John Hale's *The Civilisation of Europe in the Renaissance* (HarperCollins £25) — and praise too for Lady Hale, and David Chambers of the Warburg Institute, who saw the manuscript through the press after Hale had had a stroke. In *The Times*, Colin Welch said that this book on "the long, glorious 16th century" was written by a historian who had not only "prodigious learning" but also "the characteristics of an ideal journalist — tireless curiosity, simplicity and clarity of style, an eye for a good story". In *The Sunday Telegraph*, Martin Gayford called it "a marvellous book", and noted that "our ancestors thought of themselves as Europeans, rather than inhabitants of Christendom or Yorkshire".

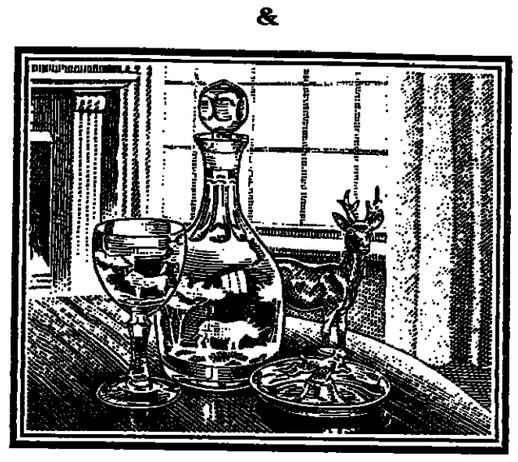
In *The Sunday Times*, Frederic Raphael rather doubted this: "the idea that we have, or should have, a common European civilisation remains questionable," he said. Raphael recorded Hale's admission that "the miniaturist Nicholas Hilliard is the only 16th-century English painter of genius at a time when every Italian town had its school of paragons" — and contrasted that with "the astonishing fact that between 1580 and 1623 nearly 11,000 new words appeared in English. Why did the English Renaissance take the form of dialogue?" Raphael decided that Hale asks the right questions, and that his book "deserves to stand alongside Braudel's classic account of the Mediterranean in the time of Philip II".
Col cms: 189

4/5 **Romanov rumour:** After the Booker excitement, there has appeared another first novel that the reviewers have been liking: Aisling Foster's *Safe in the Kitchen* (Hamish Hamilton £15.99). Set in Ireland in the early 20th century, it is about a Dublin girl, Rita Fitzgerald, who marries a dedicated nationalist. The nationalists (following an old Irish rumour) acquire possession of the Romanov crown jewels, and the frustrated Rita becomes obsessed with them. Jenny Turner in *The Guardian* thought this was a "thrilling story", Esther Kaposi in *The Literary Review* said it was "joyously Irish", Rachel Cusk in *The Times* found that it "sparkles with insight", and Maggie Traugut in *The Independent on Sunday* declared that the author had "arrived with a flourish".
Col cms: 102

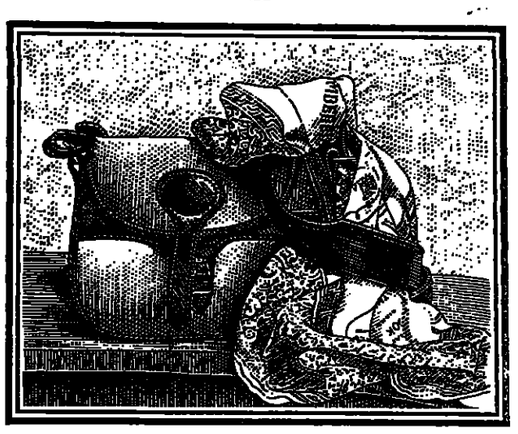
3/5 **Little splash:** Nigel Williams's *2½ Men in a Boat* (Hodder £14.99) is about an attempt to recreate the journey in *Three Men in a Boat* — the "half" apparently being a high BBC official who did not stay the course. "An eccentric book that kept me in a mellow mood of amusement," said Peter Lewis in the *Daily Mail*. "Clever and funny," wrote Gillian Reynolds in *The Daily Telegraph*. "Anyone who wonders where happiness comes from will find an occasional answer here." However, in *The Sunday Telegraph*, David Robson judged that "the comic passages let the author down".
Col cms: 69

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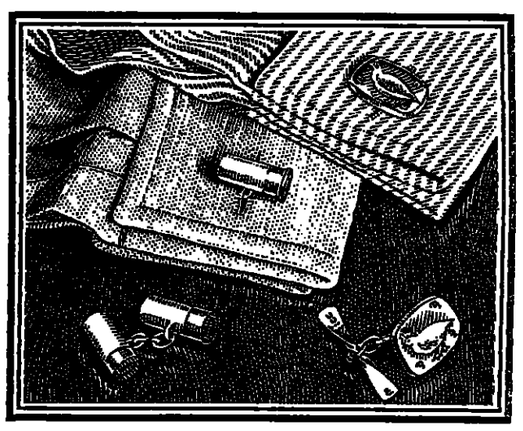
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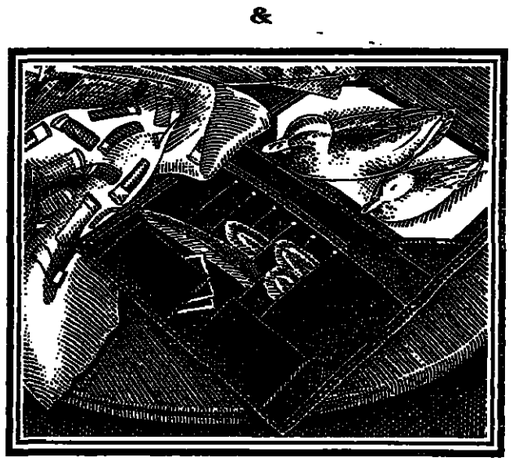
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HAPPY CHRISTMAS

From Aztec aphrodisiac to wicked desire

Once the bedtime drink of Montezuma, the humble cocoa bean has come a long way, **Frank Jeffery** reports

Christmas is coming, the chocolate-makers are getting fat — as well as the other ingredients for the festive boom. However, most of them are not getting the right kind of fat, according to Chantal Coady, who runs the elegant chocolate shop Rococo in King's Road, southwest London.

Real chocolate, she says, should use no fat other than cocoa butter, a product of the cocoa bean. The mass manufacturers tend to eke out cocoa butter with other solid vegetable oils, which are cheaper and give the product a longer shelf life.

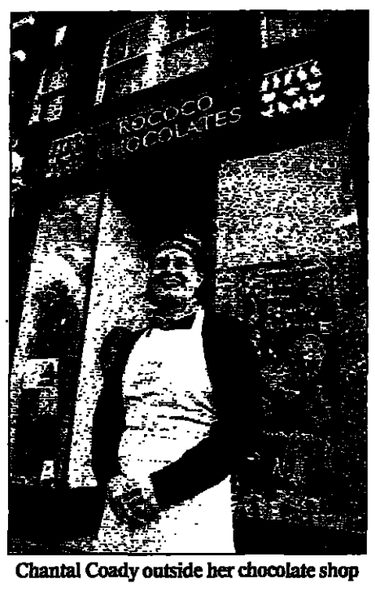
But Ms Coady feels that comparing mass-produced chocolate to the elegant wares at the top end of the market is like comparing plonk to a *premier cru* claret. The mass-produced style, she says, has a lower cocoa content, usually contains more sugar and normally uses artificial vanillin instead of real vanilla.

The other main difference, of course, is price. High-grade chocolate, with a heavy cocoa content, usually costs at least five times as much as the mass-produced kind. A 100g bar of French Valrona chocolate, which is 70 per cent pure chocolate, sells for about £2.50 in this country. Hand-finished chocolates in Rococo cost between £10 and £20 a pound.

Charbonnel et Walker, of Bond Street in the West End, one of London's first specialist chocolate shops (founded in 1875), sells its chocolates at £16 a pound, its truffles at £18. (Legend has it that Mme Charbonnel, a Frenchwoman, was a discarded mistress of the Prince of Wales, and he paid her off by setting her up in the Bond Street establishment with the English Madam Walker.)

Despite the price, elegant and expensive chocolates are gaining ground, even in the recession. People who put off holidaying in China will still spend money on high-priced, sharper-flavoured chocolates.

Ms Coady became keen on chocolate when her father, a doctor, was specialising in tropical medicine in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. Her mother rewarded Ms Coady, then five, after her catechism classes with bars of Cadbury's Milk Tray. Back in the UK, Ms Coady, now an art student, got a Saturday job in the chocolate department of Harrods. In white coat and gloves she dispensed the delectable goodies and became so hooked that when she graduated, she opened Rococo.



Chantal Coady outside her chocolate shop

She knows all about the different styles and qualities of cocoa bean, and she has mastered the flavourings and fillings. She regards herself as a designer of fine chocolates.

At the moment, she is working on her Christmas secret weapon, a gold-leafed sweetmeat of extra dark chocolate enclosing white chocolate and Cointreau.

Two years ago she helped to found the Chocolate Society, an outfit which promotes the grand end of the trade. The big makers were not amused: they saw the society as an attack on their products.

Now Ms Coady has written a fascinating book — the perfect non-fattening Christmas present for chocaholics — called *Chocolate — The Food of the Gods*. It tells the history of the little cocoa bean from the time when Montezuma used it crushed and whisked into a cold drink before visiting his Aztec harem. It was thought of as a sustaining food and an aphrodisiac, which is probably why Aztec women were not allowed to drink it.

Chocolate's progress as a drink rivalling tea and coffee, and its metamorphosis into the world's favourite snack food, is a fascinating tale, entertainingly told by Ms Coady, elegantly illustrated by Liz Wright.

The recipes are fun, including a truly classic chocolate mousse and a dish of wild duck in a ragout with chocolate, which may be the earliest French written recipe.

Chocolate is now a major world commodity, with the cocoa bush grown in Central and South America, West Africa, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea and other exotic spots.

Britain is joint third with Belgium in the world league table for chocolate-eating. But if the addicts work at it there is no reason why Britain should not knock the Swiss and the Norwegians off the top spots.

A SHORT HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE

THE words cocoa and chocolate are to some extent interchangeable. The name cocoa comes from the Latin name for the bush: *theobroma cacao*. The word chocolate comes from the Aztec word for their drink made from crushed cocoa beans: *xocolatl*.

Columbus brought the cocoa bean to Europe after his fourth transatlantic voyage in 1502. With tobacco, potatoes and tomatoes it became a successful import from the New World. It remained a drink for most of its early European life, really taking off when sugar and vanilla were added, and often prescribed as a medicine by physicians of the day.

The Aztecs got the Mayans to grow their cocoa in Yucatán. They used the beans as money (four for a rabbit, a hundred for a slave). The Spanish and the Portuguese brought cocoa from the Americas, and soon it was cultivated in West Africa. The Portuguese in Brazil used the local natives to collect wild cocoa beans from around the Amazon before they got into grow-your-own.

Chocolate became a fashionable drink in most European capitals before it reached England, where there was some resistance. The herbalist John Parkinson said in 1640 that it might be better used as a hogwash. Under Charles II chocolate in this country moved forward fast. Charles himself liked his cocoa strong and not too sweet: the same might be said of his mistresses, if you think of Nell Gwyn and Barbara Villiers. A century later White's, a club for gossip and gaming, was nominally a chocolate house.

The Quakers moved into chocolate production in England because cocoa was seen as an alternative to Dutch gin, which they felt was ruining the nation. The Cadburys, Rowntrees, Frys and Terrys were all Quaker families. Cadbury's first offered eating chocolate in 1842, and the Swiss partners, Daniel Peter and Henri Nestlé, marketed the first milk chocolate bars for eating about 30 years later.

In America the Quaker Milton Hershey followed the English Quaker example by using a cared-for workforce to make "healthy" products and soon dominated the market in the US. The Hershey bar went into battle with the soldiers in the first and second world wars. The Royal Navy took cocoa on board at the end of the 18th century to keep sailors healthy, and until 1968 a 1oz block of chocolate for a hot drink was issued to each man every day.

Confectionery rationing in the second world war may account for Britain's addiction to chocolate. Once rationing ended, chocolate-eating exploded. The explosion has not ended yet

● *Edited extract from* Chocolate — The Food of the Gods *(Pavilion Books, £9.99)*

ALAN WELLER


Ms Coady with her creations — she regards herself as a designer of fine chocolates



UNPEATED. UNPARALLELED.

Preserving presents

Some fruit, a pan, a jar and, hey presto, your gifts are ready

Home-made edible Christmas gifts do not break the bank, but show a donation of time and thought on the part of the giver. Prettily presented, and matched to the recipient, they are always well received.

My bachelor brother finds the chore of cooking for one terminally tedious so he will get some boozy bottled fruit. Apricots in Amaretto di Saronno are on the list this year because the almond flavour goes very well with apricots. I hope a jar of inebriated apricots will make a very good "instant" pudding for him on a depressing January evening.

And for our curry-mad friend Norman, what better than a jar of home-made mango chutney?

These recipes are easy enough for a novice. A large preserving pan is useful for the chutney. You also need airtight jars, and if you are making presents, it is worth buying some attractive ones. Jars should be thoroughly washed before use.

Amaretto apricots

1lb/450g dried apricots
½ pt/300ml water
8oz/225g granulated sugar
¼ pt/150ml Amaretto di Saronno liqueur
2in/3cm cinnamon stick

Choose large, plump apricots. Place in a pan with the water and sugar, and heat gently until the sugar dissolves. Put a lid on and allow the apricots to plump up gently for 5-15 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon and transfer to two clean, warm 1lb/450g Kilner-type preserving jars. Boil the syrup in the pan for a minute, allowing it to thicken a little, and pour over the apricots. Top up with Amaretto, put half a cinnamon stick in the middle, and seal tightly.

Mango chutney

(makes about 6lb/2.7kg)

5lb/2.3kg mangoes, peeled, stoned and chopped
1lb/450g onions, peeled and chopped
1lb/450g cooking apples, peeled, cored and chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2tbsp mustard seeds
1oz/30g coarse sea salt
½oz/15g ground ginger
3pt/1.2l white wine vinegar
1lb/450g golden granulated sugar

Do not use damaged or bruised fruit. Put the first four ingredients in a preserving pan with 1½ pt/850ml water, and bring slowly to the boil. Stir, turn down the heat, and simmer gently for 10-15 minutes, or until the fruit is soft. Stir in the mustard seeds, salt, ginger, and half the vinegar, and simmer for an hour, stirring to prevent sticking and burning. Add the sugar and the rest of the vinegar and allow the sugar to dissolve. Bring to the boil, then reduce to a simmer again, and bubble gently for 45-60 minutes until nice and thick. Skim if necessary. The test for a chutney's readiness is when the vinegar ceases bubbling and starts to spit. Pot in warm, clean jars, seal, label and store in a cool, dark place.

Keep for at least four weeks before consuming.

JANE HUMPHREYS

DISH OF THE DAY

Chef: Elizabeth Middlemiss, 33

Born: Newcastle upon Tyne.

Restaurant: Funnywayt'mekalivin, 41 Bridge Street, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1ES (0289 308827).

Present: Has just started £7 pre-theatre suppers to complement performances at the new Maltings Theatre next door, and launched a food and wine club with a programme of "family" events.

Past: Brought up on a Borders dairy farm, she fell into catering after volunteering to run a local craft shop and café for nothing until she made it pay.

Future: Is now converting rooms upstairs to run residential weekend cookery courses.

Personal: "I was two years at Bible college, did a year's training in evangelism with the Church of Scotland, and toured Scandinavia with a Christian repertory theatre company."



Dish: Cloutie dumpling with Alnwick rum butter, £1.95, or as a sweet in the £19.75 four-course set dinner. "It is like a lighter Christmas pudding but only half the work."

ROBIN YOUNG

How to coax the shy pinot noir

The New World is learning the secrets of Burgundy

FOR many years, the quality of the pinot noir produced in the New World has lagged behind that of the cabernet sauvignon and chardonnay. The reason is simple: the rise of the Californian and Australian wine industries has been based on a belief that modern technology can override the disadvantages of nature.

This belief has been vindicated by the production of wines of good quality from cabernet sauvignon and chardonnay vines that have been planted in inappropriately hot climates and allowed to produce heavy crops. Wine makers have harvested the grapes by machine and often at night, fermented the wine at a low temperature out of contact with oxygen, and filtered it to avoid any risk of contamination in the bottle. Unfortunately, pinot noir grapes that have been vinified in the same manner have produced heavy-handed, fruitless, orange-coloured wines.

American and Australasian wine makers have failed to appreciate that pinot noir is a much less forgiving grape than cabernet sauvignon and chardonnay. It likes to be grown in a climate that is much cooler than their principal wine-growing areas. The size of the crop has to be rigorously controlled. The grapes need to be handled with delicacy. The wine must be fermented in small quantities, preferably in round wooden tanks that are open to the air, then left alone to resolve itself. It should not be filtered.

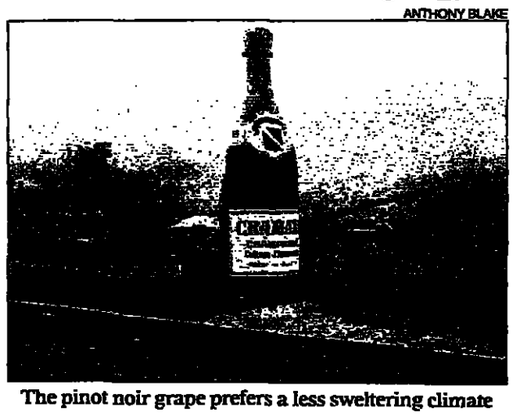
Before successful pinot noirs could be produced in America and Australasia, vine growers had first to move from the heat of the Napa valley to the fog-cooled valleys along the Californian coast; from California to Oregon, 500 miles to the north; from inland to coastal or hillside vineyards in Australia; from Australia to New Zealand. Then wine makers had to reject their high-tech methods and adopt the simple procedures that worked so well in Burgundy. They have gradually developed the confidence to do so as a result of visiting and working in Burgundy and of holding discussions with Burgundian wine makers. At long last, they are making pinot noirs that pose a serious challenge to red burgundy.

New World pinot noirs combine the fruit of the New World with the elegance of red burgundy. It might seem that they would be too delicate to cope with hot or spicy foods, and that a more robust wine would do better. In fact, a pinot noir, with its apparent sweetness, achieves a balance. Indeed, spicy foods can bring out hidden depths in shy pinot noirs.

BEING low in tannin, pinot noirs do not react badly with fish and duck. And, after a few years in the bottle, they develop a gamy character, making them a perfect match for game birds of all kinds. Given the care that is needed to make it, good pinot noir can never be cheap. But it does offer the perfect accompaniment to a traditional Christmas dinner.

ANDREW BARR

ANTHONY BLAKE


The pinot noir grape prefers a less sweltering climate

BEST BUYS

● **Carneros Creek, Fleur de Carneros 1991:** *Majestic Wine Warehouses, £6.99.*
Digestible pinot noir from the Carneros region of California.

● **Kent Rasmussen Pinot Noir 1989:** *T & W Wines, 51 King Street, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2AU (0842 765646), £16.39.*
Sainsbury Reserve Pinot Noir 1990: *Adnams, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6DP (0502 724222), £16.50.*
Much richer and more profound pinot noirs from Carneros.

● **Au Bon Climat Pinot Noir 1991:** *Morris & Verdin, 28 Churton Street, London SW1V 2LP (071-630 8883), £12.*
Calera "Nills" 1989: *The Winery, 4 Clifton Road, London W9 1SS (071-286 6475), £16.50.*
Serious, ripe pinot noirs from down the Californian coast.

● **The Eyrie Vineyards Pinot Noir 1990:** *Windrush Wines, Market Square, Northleach, Cheltenham, Glos GL54 3EG (0451 860680), £12.93.*
Discreet, classy pinot noir from Oregon. Needs to age.

Yarra Glen Pinor Noir 1992: *largest Tesco stores, £5.99.*
Colstream Hills Pinot Noir 1992: *Oddbins, £7.99.*
Well-balanced, fruity, accessible pinot noirs from the Yarra Valley in Victoria. Good value for money.

● **Bannockburn Pinot Noir 1989:** *The Winery, £8.95.*
Richly flavoured pinot noir from the south coast of Victoria.

● **Vignalis Pinot Noir 1991:** *The Australian Wine Centre, 50 The Strand, London WC2V 5LV (071-925 0751), £10.99.*
Crisp, elegant pinot noir from the south coast of Western Australia.

● **Vaipara Springs Pinot Noir 1992:** *The Waterloo Wine Company, 61 Lant Street, London SE1 1QL (071-408 7967), £9.49.*
Succulent pinot noir from the South Island of New Zealand.

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Baskets of seasonal good cheer

Frances Bisssell recommends making your own Christmas hamper as a welcome gift



The TIMES COOK

DIANA LEADBETTER



Home-made food hampers are much more fun to give as gifts, as well as more fun to fill, and better value than hampers found in the chain stores and kitchenware departments of the larger department stores. Hampers can be tailor-made to a specific meal, dish or theme, or planned around the recipient's gastronomic leanings. The ingredients can be put together during your normal shopping expeditions, with perhaps one or two forays to specialist shops.

Fruit baskets can be made more exciting than the usual selection of colourful but bland apples, woolly peaches and plums, and dull grapes and strawberries. Choose all citrus fruit, for example, including the easy peelers, such as *clementines*, mandarins and tangerines, and add blood oranges, navels, limes, lemons, kumquats, two or three kinds of grapefruits and pomelos.

Alternatively, make a selection of tropical or Mediterranean fruits, including pomegranates, persimmons, guavas, prickly pears, passion fruit and custard apples. For those who complain that apples are not what they were, gather a collection of traditional English apples, available from specialist fruiterers and many supermarkets.

Consider making up an afternoon-tea hamper of homemade produce. Include a pot or two of jam, a fruit cake, some shortbread, a jar of clotted cream (if for fairly immediate consumption) and a Cellophane packet of home-made scone mixture, with a recipe and instructions for use. A pretty teapot and packet of Darjeeling or Nuwara Eliya tea completes the gift.

Here are some more hamper suggestions, together with a few appropriate recipes. The whole point about home-made hampers is that you should enjoy putting them together without too much difficulty, otherwise you may as well call on a hamper specialist.

From Italy for the cook

A large box or packet of the best risotto rice, such as Arborio or Vialone, a tinned white truffle (or one in a jar or a small bottle of truffle oil), a packet of dried porcini, one bottle each of Barbera or Barolo, extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar, a chunk of fresh Parmesan and an exclusive recipe for a porcini and red-wine risotto.

The hamper could be extended "for the cook and connoisseur" to include sun-dried tomatoes, *mostarda di frutta*, vegetables in olive oil and other such delicacies as you can find, and a bottle of fine red wine, such as Sassicaia or Ornellaia.

From France for the gastronome

A jar of confit of duck or goose plus a recipe for preparing this classic dish of the southwest. One bottle of walnut oil for dressing the salad, which is the best starter or accompaniment to the rich confit, a jar of goats' cheese in olive oil for the cheese course, or a large chunk of fresh Cantal, and a box of *pruneaux d'Agen* to finish. As an alternative to the *pruneaux*, pack pitted prunes into a glass preserving jar, fill with Armagnac or Banyuls and seal the lid. The prunes will plump up in a few days.

For the sweet-toothed

Lebkuchen and other spicy, sweet German Christmas biscuits, jars of fruit in liqueur or syrup (such as griottines and clementines), Michel Chuizel chocolate (or home-made chocolate truffles or other good quality chocolate), crystallised fruit from Provence or the Gaea range from Greece, Montelimar nougat from France, *torrone* or Italian nougat, *turron* (nougat) and *membrillo* (quince cheese) from Spain and one or two of the following wines: Rheingau or Mosel Auslese from Germany, Moscatel de Setubal from Portugal, Clos l'Abeilley Sauternes from France, Pedro Ximenez sherry or Fine Old Oloroso from Spain, and Vin Santo from Italy.

For the reveller, a celebration hamper for a Russian buffet on New Year's eve

Champagne, vodka (Moscovskaya or Stolichnaya, if possible), a packet of home-made mix for blinis, a recipe and serving instructions, caviar, marinated mushrooms, quail eggs, anchovies in brine, herring salad, gherkins, pickled onions and other good quality pickles and salty, savoury hors d'oeuvres. If you have time, you can make your own flavoured vodkas. Branches of John Lewis, Liberty and other stores have decorative bottles made from recycled glass. Steep lemon zest in vodka for two weeks, then strain into a bottle and cork it. Fennel, chillies and cranberry are other flavourings you might consider. Kumquats make a very fragrant, orange-flavoured vodka.

Red wine and mushroom risotto

(serves 4-6)

- 1oz/30g dried porcini
- 2oz/60g unsalted butter
- 1tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion, peeled and finely chopped
- ½lb/230g mushrooms, wiped and sliced
- ¾lb/340g rice
- ½ btl/370ml Italian red wine, simmering
- up to 1½pt/850ml vegetable or light chicken stock, simmering
- salt, pepper
- freshly grated Parmesan

Soak the dried porcini in a little hot water. Put half the butter and the olive oil in a deep heavy frying pan. Gently cook the onion until wilted, and add half the mushrooms. Stir in the rice, and when glossy, add half the wine. All the liquids should be added at simmering point so that the temperature is constant throughout cooking. Stir the rice, and when the wine has been absorbed, add the rest, and let it cook to absorption. Add about ¼pt/140ml stock and the remaining mushrooms, including the porcini, chopped or sliced as necessary, and cook until the liquid has been absorbed. Continue cooking and adding liquid in this way, stirring fairly frequently to prevent the rice sticking. The rice may be cooked to your liking before you have used up all the stock, depending on whether you prefer a creamy or drier risotto. Just before serving, season to taste, stir in the remaining butter and some of the Parmesan cheese, handing the rest separately.

How to use a jar of confit of duck

While delicious eaten cold with the fat scraped off, the confit is also used in many other ways. Leftover scraps are added to thick rustic vegetable soups, such as the *garbure* of Béarn and Gascony. With much of its fat removed, a piece of confit can be added to a cassoulet, the flavoursome bean and meat stew of the Languedoc, where almost every village and town has its own "authentic" version. The fat can be used in baking and cooking. At its simplest, the confit makes an excellent, quick meal. Put the confit, with most of its fat removed, in a heavy saucepan, partially cover, and cook slowly until the fat has melted and the meat is heated through. Alternatively, cook the confit in the frying pan, allowing the skin side to become crispy brown. Either way takes about 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, peel, slice, parboil and drain potatoes, and finish cooking by frying them in duck fat, strained into a frying pan. Serve the duck and potatoes liberally sprinkled with finely chopped parsley.

Blini mixture

(makes 2-2½ dozen)

- 2tsp fast-action yeast
- 1tsp sugar
- 10oz/280g bread flour (ie, strong plain)
- 6oz/170g buckwheat flour, or use 1lb/455g plain flour
- 1tsp salt

Mix the dry ingredients together and put in a Cellophane packet, securely tied, with the following recipe attached.

Blinis

- 1 packet blini mix
- 1pt/570ml warm milk and water mixed
- 1 tbsp melted butter
- oil and butter for frying

In a bowl, mix to a smooth batter the dry ingredients and the liquid and stir in the melted butter. Cover the bowl with a damp tea towel, or put it in a large polythene bag. Twist to close, and let the batter rise for 45 minutes or so.

Heat a heavy-based ring pan or griddle and grease it with a mixture of oil and butter. Pour on a ladleful of batter. If the pan has a large enough surface, you should be able to cook three or four blinis at a time. When the surface looks dry, with some airholes in it, turn the blini over and cook the other side. The second side will cook with a few patches of brown, whereas the first side is a smooth uniform brown.

The blini can be kept warm on a plate set over a pan of hot water.

Serve with a jug of melted butter or a bowl of soured cream. And caviar. And ice-cold vodka.

RESTAURANT WATCH

CIRCUS BRUNCH
The Criterion
Piccadilly Circus, London W1
(071-925 0909)
The Criterion opens for Sunday brunch (noon to 5.30pm) for the first time tomorrow. Chef Brian Baker's brunch menu includes bagels (£5.50-£6.75), eggs benedict (£5.75), and minted lamb on toasted ciabatta (£7.50). Set afternoon tea is also served, from 3pm. At any time Monday to Saturday two courses are still £10. Open noon to 11.30pm Monday to Saturday, and noon to 5.30pm on Sunday.

COVENTRY RESITED
O'Keefe's
19 Dering Street, London W1
(071-495 0878)
Beth Coventry, formerly at Green's and (briefly) Beth's in Hampstead (now Byron's), started cooking this week at O'Keefe's, which now opens for breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner. She adds her steak and kidney pies and fischcakes to their repertoire. £15 should cover it. 8am to 10pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm Saturday, closed Sunday.

JOCKEY POSITION
Horse and Jockey
Station Road, Knighton, Powys
(0547 520062)
In winter, the restaurant normally only opens for Sunday lunch (£5.95) and dinners on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings — but Jill Dolman and her partners will open for lunch or dinner any other day by arrangement for parties of eight or more. There is always a choice of about 25 bar meals and home-made pizzas anyway. Noon to 2.30pm and 6 to 10pm (pizzas from £1.95 to £6 available till 11pm) seven days a week.

BARGING ABOUT
Bridge Inn
27 Baird Road, Ratho, Lothian
(031-333 1320)
Egon Ronay's Family Pub of the Year runs two restaurant barges on the Union Canal as well as serving both informal meals and an *à la carte* menu with main courses from £11 to £15. Bar food from noon to 9.30pm, and restaurant meals noon to 2.30pm and 6.30 to 9.30pm. The barges seat 36 each, but will run whenever 16 or more are booked.

ROBIN YOUNG

Big day at the Pudding Club

A monthly binge by suet and syrup pud lovers has led to a new supermarket range

Whisper the words steamed syrup sponge in the ear of the average man and a wistful look will come into his eyes. So tryannised have we become by the pressure to look like Kate Moss that the Great British Pudding has all but vanished from the dinner table.

But while some cooks deny their loved ones anything more indulgent than a satsuma to finish a meal, a group of pudding fanciers has been keeping the flame of true stodge burning brightly.

For the past nine years an unsung organisation called the Pudding Club has been meeting regularly at the Three Ways Hotel in Mickleton, near Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, to plough its way through spotted dicks and jam roly polys.

Jean and Keith Turner, the hotel proprietors, dreamed up the idea of the Pudding Club about nine years ago, and it was an immediate success, with pudding lovers queuing to participate in the monthly binge.

As luck would have it, one of the fans was head of reasearch and development for Safeway, who decided to produce a range based on the Pudding Club's favourite recipes. Their existing cream cake supplier, Broadheath Foods, was given the task of developing the range.

The recipes — spotted dick, sticky toffee pudding, syrup pudding, oriental ginger pudding, jam and coconut sponge and Lord Randall's pudding (marmalade and dried apricots) — had to be modified to meet the 70,000-a-week production run, and homely ingredients such as Golden Syrup and baking powder had to be described as "partially inverted refiners syrup" and "tetrasodium diphosphate" to meet the labelling laws.

Samples were rushed to Mickleton for the Turners' inspection. The first lot were rejected, but gradually Broadheath Foods got it right.

With bated breath, Safeway presented the final results to the regular meeting of the Pudding Club last week. Mr Turner, who has clearly missed his calling as master of ceremonies at a Victorian music hall, announced the puddings as they were paraded through the dining-room.

The regulars analysed the offerings with due seriousness. "I think the sticky toffee could have done with a touch more toffee," Frances Williams said. "I've saved the spotted dick until last because that's my favourite at home," said Robert Herring, who had valiantly worked his way through all five puddings. "Not bad," he paused. "But not *quite* enough suet."

In the end it was the jam and coconut pud that won the day with 21 votes, closely followed by the syrup sponge with 17, and Lord Randall's pudding with 16.

"I love them all," Mr Turner said, beaming. Mrs Turner objected to the nutritional information which revealed the horrible truth that a modest helping of pud would pile on some 250 calories (not including custard). "I think it's a load of codswallop. I don't see why you have to put something on the label that gives people a guilty conscience, but that's the law."

COLIN SHEPHERD



Graham English, product development manager at Broadheath Foods

I gave a home trial to a sticky toffee pudding, in case I'd been over-favourably affected by the emotion of the occasion. Microwaved in three minutes, it was jolly good, partially inverted refiners syrup notwithstanding. I expect to see a lot of pudding lovers furtively sneaking into Safeway when their friends aren't looking.

For those who have the stamina to tackle the Pudding Club's versions, here are two recipes.

Lord Randall's pudding

(serves 4-6)

- 1 cup butter
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 cup plain flour
- 1tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 egg, plus enough milk to fill cup
- 1 cup dried apricots (chopped)
- 1 cup Cooper's Oxford Marmalade

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Sift together flour and bicarbonate of soda. Add egg, milk, flour and apricots alternately, beating vigorously. Then stir in marmalade. Turn mixture into a greased two-pint pudding basin.

Cover with foil and steam for one and a half to two hours.

Sticky toffee pudding

(serves 12)

- 4oz/20g softened butter
- 12oz/360g granulated sugar
- 1lb/450g plain flour
- 2tsp baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 12oz/360g stoned dates
- 1pt/510ml boiling water
- 2tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 2tsp vanilla essence

Cream butter and sugar. Sieve flour and baking powder. Beat eggs into butter and sugar. Add little flour and continue beating for one minute. Mix in rest of flour.

Flour dates lightly and chop. Pour boiling water over them, then mix in bicarbonate of soda and vanilla essence. Add this to cake mix and blend well together. Turn into buttered cake tin 11in x 7in.

Bake at 180C/350F, gas mark 4,for one hour or until a skewer comes out clean. If it is browning too quickly cover with foil. Serve with butterscotch sauce.

Butterscotch sauce

- 6oz/170g butter
- 3tbsp golden syrup
- 1lb/450g demerara sugar
- 15oz can evaporated milk

Melt butter, add syrup and sugar, stir until sugar has dissolved and all are blended together. Pour in evaporated milk, turn up heat and beat until boiling.

FIONA BECKETT

● *Safeway's Pudding Club range is available in all stores at £1.49. For details of the Pudding Club, contact the Three Ways Hotel, Mickleton, Gloucestershire GL55 6SB (0386 438118).*

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LE CREUSET

Treats of a traditional grocer

Sara Driver explores the fragrant delights of an old-fashioned food emporium that thrives happily in a world of supermarkets


STEPHEN MARKESON

William Martyn, centre, with staff members Andrew McTeare and Nellie Pummell at his family shop, "W. Martyn, Retailers of Fine Foods"

Stroll around Muswell Hill, north London, with a packet of freshly roasted, freshly ground coffee in your shopping bag and complete strangers are liable to sniff appreciatively and murmur, "Martyn's". The antique coffee machine that stands in Martyn's window, gently turning roasting coffee beans, attracts passers-by like a magnet.

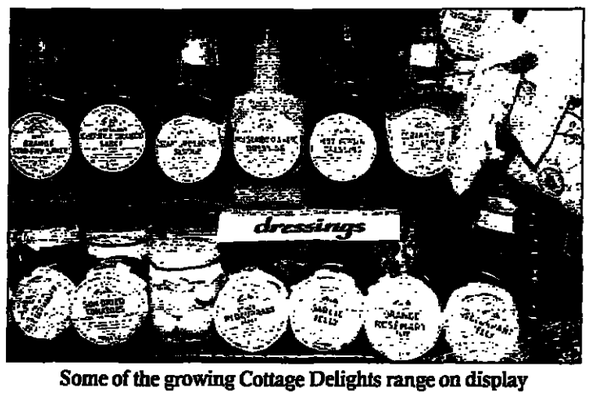
W. Martyn, Retailers of Fine Foods, inspires unwavering loyalty among the inhabitants of Muswell Hill, Highgate and Crouch End. Supermarkets come and go, but Martyn's is part of the history and fabric of the area. In the past orders would have been delivered to your door by horse and cart. Now, although the home delivery service has officially ceased, devoted customers who have moved to Wales and Northumberland still have Martyn's coffee and tea sent.

First opened in 1897, the shop retains the antique black and gold storage jars and original dark brown mahogany cabinets and counter fittings chosen by the first William Martyn, the current owner's great-grandfather. The business remains a family concern. The present William Martyn's father does the accounts. His brother-in-law looks after a growing sideline — supplying coffee and tea to restaurants as far away as the Isle of Wight.

W. Martyn is also renowned for its dried fruits and nuts. In Victorian times the sultanas and currants were collected from the docks in wooden crates, then cleaned, rubbed and washed in a vast sieve. Today the shop window is crammed full of open baskets of dried apricots, figs, prunes, pears and sultanas, and the display is enhanced at this time of year by boxes of elaborate, hand-made Christmas crackers in reds, greens and golds.

This is one of the few remaining traditional grocery shops in London, yet it is no Victorian relic preserved for posterity. Although an aura of old-fashioned civility remains and the antique scales, cashier's office and glass-topped biscuit tins are all still in use, the soap powders, bacon and butter disappeared with the arrival of supermarkets. In their place came speciality foods — marmalades, Gentleman's Relish, exotic mustards, glacé fruits, chocolates, crystallised ginger in porcelain pots and home-made biscuits.

The products on offer are being continually updated. Alongside packets of Darjeeling, Ceylon and Earl Grey stand Indian and Chinese teas flavoured with apple, Japanese cherry, almond and vanilla, as well as 30 varieties of herbal teas. There is a glass cabinet full of cafetière machines and coffee grinders. Mr Martyn is always on the look-out for small companies which can supply high-quality products, such as Moores of Dorset, which makes nothing but biscuits, or the Cornish firm which sends him large slabs of rich-tasting traditional fudge.



Some of the growing Cottage Delights range on display

One range which stops customers in their tracks comes from a company called Cottage Delights. Its products are a treat, both aesthetically and in terms of taste (the culinary kind). Layers of black cuttlefish and pink smoked salmon pasta in long, triangular Italian glass jars; flasks of intense green virgin olive oil, or tarragon, cider or wine vinegars turned into visual delights by the addition of juniper berries, mixed peppercorns, cinnamon sticks and other unusual herbs and spices. There are packets of dark red hot chilli spaghetti, deep green basil fusilli and tomato tagliatelli, and seasonal jars of pickled walnuts in port.

Cottage Delights launched its own label in 1987 and has rapidly expanded into a highly successful business.It now supplies Harrods and Fortnum & Mason as well as small, select outlets like Martyn's. The company is run by a husband and wife team who insist on only the finest, purest ingredients. They now make their own mincemeat, because the quality of the product they were being supplied with did not match their own high expectations.

Until recently, Mr Martyn says, "the description 'grocer' was considered old-fashioned, a hybrid term. We have variously called ourselves 'Retailers of Fine Foods' and 'Tea & Coffee Specialists'. But now that so many shops are essentially just supermarkets, the word has come back into use meaning quality, and I am happy to call myself a grocer again."

● *W. Martyn, 135 Muswell Hill Broadway, London N10 (081-883 5642).*

Edward Marriott, with the help of novelist Michael Dobbs, persuades Francis Urquhart to confess his sins and celebrate his saving graces

vices & VIRTUES

1st Lust: This is my worst vice. It has led me astray and threatens to again with my new girlfriend, Sarah Harding. But because I am lustful, I recognise it in others and can use it. Lust is a weakness, but I enjoy it.

2nd Pride: The biggest danger, one which prime ministers have been dragged down by. It is a weakness in a politician, but especially a failing in a prime minister.

3rd Avarice: The thing is to harness avarice, not despise it. Upon avarice are empires built and great industries constructed. I regard it as a virtue — the getting of things, the getting of power. Not only am I avaricious myself, it is a quality I welcome in others, because I can harness it.

4th Envy: This is immensely useful in others: if people are envious of me I can keep them divided. I admit to envy — of those who inherited their positions of power rather than worked for them, as I have. I suspect I am envious of the king.



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5th Wrath: I am quickly angered but I try to control it. Uncontrolled anger is a vice. I approve of controlled violence. It makes me angry not to get my own way. I like the world ordered to my command, whether it is in the big things, like the monarchy, or the small things, like whether my egg is boiled properly.

6th Gluttony: Apart from the occasional glass of malt whisky, gluttony does not enter my life. Self-control is vital.

7th Sloth: I'm certainly not slothful, but I'm glad that sloth exists in my enemies; I can take advantage of it.

1st Temperance: The ability to indulge, but not to excess, is very important; I am conscious that each time I have indulged excessively I have exposed vulnerable flanks. I never go the pub, I prefer to be on my own ground.

2nd Justice: This is the power to wreak vengeance. The Lord said vengeance was His, and I see myself as doing the Lord's work. I believe in victory for those who believe in hard work, discipline and Francis Urquhart.

3rd Hope: This is a sustaining virtue for me, but it is essential that I crush hope in others. Hope in others is a weapon to be used — the hope of a knighthood, the hope of an honour.

4th Faith: I deal with the tangible: money, honours, ambition, power. Faith is difficult to control and manipulate. I have no great motivating political faith. I believe in power for its own sake rather than as a means to achievement. I attend church only when it is necessary. I accept God because I was brought up to do so.

5th Prudence: I have held on to the reins of power because I am wise in the ways of the world. Prudence — taking care and exercising restraint — is vital. It permits you to time your moves to the maximum, occasionally to devastating effect.

6th Fortitude: In politics, you cannot be successful without it. I have more than others. Much more important than getting angry is getting even.

7th Charity: I despise it; it is a weakness in others. I do not believe in charity; society can only be healthy if people get up off their backsides.

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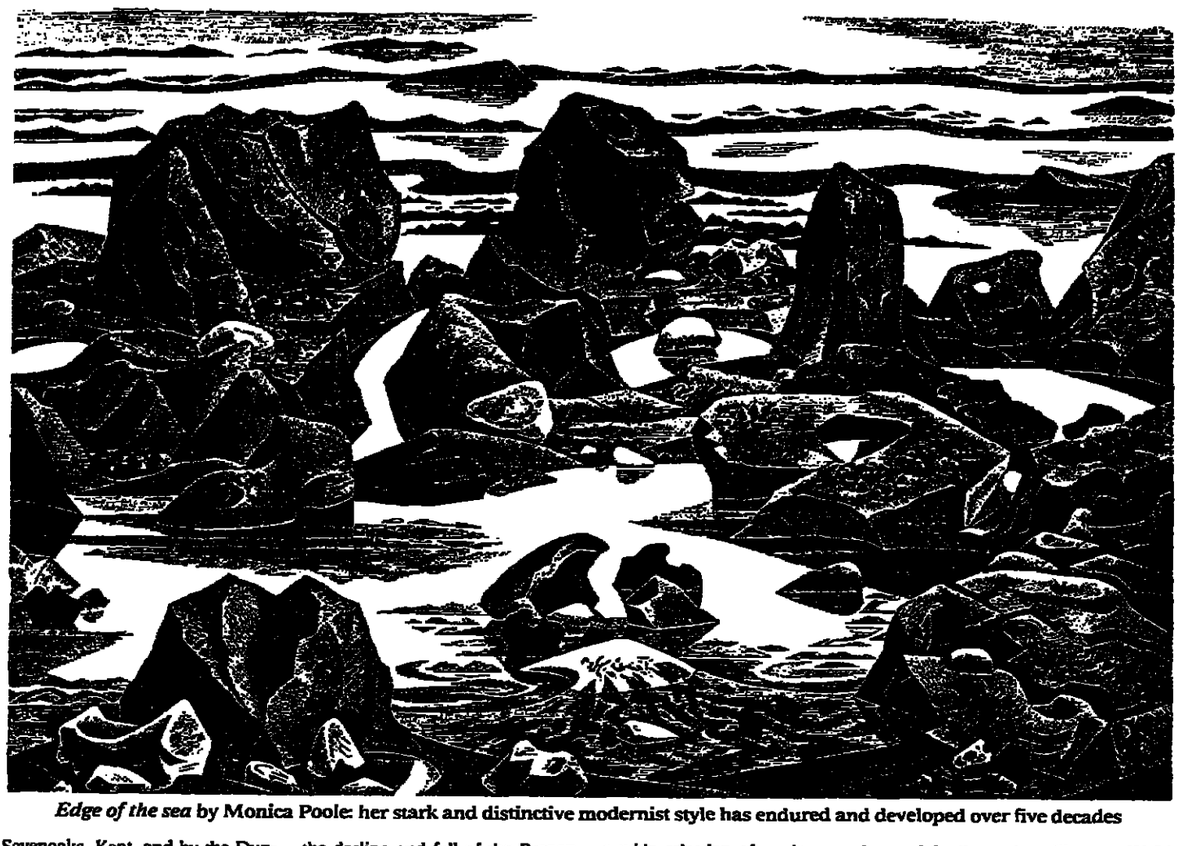
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Against the grain of fashion

Modern wood-engravers have been unfairly neglected, but their works offer excellent value, says Jim McCue



Edge of the sea by Monica Poole: her stark and distinctive modernist style has endured and developed over five decades

Wood-engraving has been one of the hidden successes of British artistic life this century. For a couple of decades or more after colour printing became widely available in the 1950s, most galleries and art editors refused to look at work in black and white (except perhaps for grainy war-reportage photography). And even now that the generation of Robert Gibbings (born 1889), Agnes Miller Parker (1895), Eric Ravilious (1903) and Joan Hassall (1906) has received due recognition, few people are aware of the diversity and skill among engravers of our own day.

Yet as the heritage secretary, Peter Brooke, has discovered wood-engravings are an excellent interest for collectors who do not have a fortune to spend. Mr Brooke has been buying for many years, and now has about 50 prints, including work by Howard Phipps, Simon Brett, and Hilary Paynter. He says his self-imposed spending limit of £50 leaves him huge scope, but admits that for engravings of scenes around his Wiltshire home he will occasionally exceed it.

Wood-engravers began as book illustrators, and Thomas Bewick (1753-1828), the greatest of them all, did all of his blocks for volumes such as his *History of British Birds* and *General History of the Quadrupeds*. But as easier means of reproduction became available, engraving was confined to specialised fine-press books, with magnificent successes in the 1920s and 1930s, before these too suffered a decline as a bibliophile bubble burst. Many engravers then turned to making small editions of prints for wall display, as a branch of fine art.

One engraver who went on cutting her own line through the lean years is Monica Poole, whose stark, craggy and unpeopled landscapes are on show in a full retrospective at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, where more than 60 of her prints from the past 50 years are in the Eldon gallery until January 16. In earlier years, Miss Poole illustrated a small number of books, but in the catalogue she writes: "I moved easily away from illustration when I realised my work is too cold. I do not want to portray emotion and incident, to comment on human situations."

She emphasises the laboriousness of the medium, saying that each block takes "months rather than weeks". In the process, she engraves so many textures and grains that she is effectively using a full palette of tones. "Dead Trees, Sheppey", for instance, depicts two skeletal trunks, tangled against an abstract sky; remarkably, the first is ghostly pale, the other deathly black. One would have thought it impossible to achieve both effects at once. It is almost as though two kinds of engraving are being superimposed, but it is actually done using graduated densities of black.

> Each block takes months rather than weeks

"If the shapes that interest me are, at times, eccentric," Miss Poole writes, "one may blame it on some murky depths in my subconscious." Yet she sees into those depths with superb clarity, as for instance in "Under Water", where light filters down among rocks and weeds, between the windows of the sea, where lovely mermaids flow.

Many of her beautiful images come from a world in which human beings never happened. The convoluted life-forms in "Seaweed", "Beach Combings" and "Root" are as fearfully alien as the alternative evolutions discovered by palaeontologists.

Miss Poole's work is stocked by the Bridge Street Gallery in Sevenoaks, Kent, and by the Duncan Cambell Gallery in west London. Campbell, the leading London dealer in wood-engravings, recently mounted an exhibition of "Three Generations of Engravers" at the Barbican Centre, featuring Miss Poole alongside prints by Edwina Ellis and Anne Desmet.

Mrs Ellis, born in Australia, exhibited 22 colour engravings, mainly of the bush or of Morocco. These prints are built up from three separate colours, so each subject has to be engraved on three separate blocks. This process, with the addition of a black, is the basis of almost all colour printing, but is generally done by photomechanical means. The skill and patience involved in distilling a scene into its key colours in the imagination is astonishing, and the reward is a density and fierceness of colour that can do justice to the blazing desert sun. Her yellows and oranges are as vibrant as a mirage.

Miss Desmet is the youngest of the three — still in her twenties. Her simplest works, such as "New House" and "Autumn and Spring" (cut for *The Times*) display her skill with graver and burin, the tools of the craft, but larger works show her experimenting with collages of her own prints. A period of study in Italy has resulted in numerous architectural palimpsests, whimsically charting the decline and fall of the Roman monuments. Her linocut "Roma" won a major prize at the South Bank Picture Show of London-based artists at the Festival Hall last year.

Miss Desmet was also one of the selectors for this year's touring (and selling) exhibition of the Society of Wood-Engravers (currently in Oxford), which comprises some 90 prints by 50 or so artists. And in Harrogate, Godfrey & Twatt holds about two exhibitions a year devoted to wood-engravings, and stocks a wide selection of modern work, including prints by Betty Pennell, Claire Dalby, Simon Brett, Kathleen Lindsley and Chris Wormell.

Private presses, such as the Fleece Press in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and the Whittington Press in Andoversford, Gloucestershire, continue to produce stunning limited-edition books of hand-printed engravings, often at hundreds of pounds a copy. Gwasg Gregynog, in Wales, will shortly publish an edition of 100 sets of engravings by Gertrude Hermes, originally made to illustrate W. H. Davies's poems in *The Lovers' Song-book* in 1933, but never before shown. The ten prints together will retail at £470. In the book market, these could be thought expensive, but considered as prints they remain modest.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the market, J. L. Carr's tiny books of work by Miss Poole, Mrs Ellis, John Lawrence and others are an excellent introduction at 60p each.

But it is heartening when a commercial publisher returns to this inimitable form of illustration. Pavilion Books has just published *Leaves from the Walnut Tree* (£15.99), recipes by Ann and Franco Taruschio from Elizabeth David's favourite restaurant, for which it commissioned full-page engravings from Sarah van Niekerk.





Appetisers by Sarah van Niekerk for a new recipe book

● *The Society of Wood-Engravers welcomes non-artist subscribers and can be contacted through the honorary secretary, PO Box 355, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6LE. Its annual exhibition is at Halifax House in Oxford until December 17. The Duncan Campbell Gallery is at 15 Thackeray Street, London W8 5ET. Godfrey & Twatt is at 7 Westminster Arcade, Parliament Street, Harrogate HG1 2RN. The Gwasg Gregynog press is at Newtown, Powys SY16 3PW. J.L. Carr's little books are available from 17 Home Farm Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.*

● *Wood-engravings will also be represented in the Christmas exhibition at the Bankside Gallery, 48 Hopton Street, London SE1 9JH, until December 22.*

Sale previews

☐ British illustration has been catching up with mainstream "art" in terms of kudos, and two London dealers are offering top-quality examples in the run-up to Christmas. At the **Chris Beetles** gallery, 836 examples, from Rackham to Heath Robinson, Cruikshank to Scarfe, can be bought for prices ranging from £35 to £18,500. **Sally Hunter Fine Art** offers a limited edition of 250 engravings for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Sir John Tenniel, the prints freshly taken from the original blocks, rediscovered in two deed boxes at a bank in 1985 (£170 to £295).

☐ This is Old Masters week, and on Tuesday **Christie's** hopes to raise £750,000 on behalf of the Earl of Radnor when it sells three rare bronzes by the Florentine master Giambologna. On Friday, the company will also offer one of only three portraits of women by El Greco: a haunting image identified by one scholar as the artist's daughter-in-law, Alfonsa de los Morales. First sold through Christie's for three guineas in 1851, it is now estimated at £700,000.

☐ On Thursday, **Sotheby's** is offering the "most important" collection of Greek vases at auction for a decade, which could fetch more than £1 million. The most valuable, at £200,000 each, are a pair from the 6th century BC in forceful, crude style, one showing Hercules battling with three centaurs, the other an unidentified hero struggling against a giant sea monster with the body of an eel and a face like a rottweiler.

☐ Twelve scraps of unprepossessing vellum could fetch up to £12,000 at **Sotheby's** on Monday. This is because they could be the remains of the great Crusader library in Jerusalem, sacked and looted in 1187. An added bonus for prospective buyers is that the original liturgical texts in Latin have the titles to the *Tales of the Arabian Nights* written in Arabic on top.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

● *Chris Beetles, 8 & 10 Ryder Street, London SW1 (071-839 7551); Sally Hunter Fine Art, 11 Halkin Arcade, Motcombe Street, London SW1 (071-235 0934); Christie's, 8 King Street, London WC1 (071-839 9060); Sotheby's 34 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-493 8080).*

Dear old Teddy faces the hammer

If you go down to the Christie's sale on Monday, you're sure of a big surprise. Nicole Swengley reports on Britain's first big bear auction

Hand-made teddy bears are usually lumped in with other toys at auction. But after ten years of successful sales Leyla Maniera, the teddy bear specialist at Christie's, has decided that the market is ready for a huge picnic of 200 teddies. So, on Monday, she will hold Britain's first big sale devoted to old teddies.

"Although they are not yet classed as antiques — the earliest in our sale dates from 1904 — bears have finally been recognised as a serious collector's item," Ms Maniera says. "And as the sale covers a wide price range, they are affordable for everyone.

"It's the cuddle factor that appeals," Ms Maniera says. "No matter how threadbare they are, people are enchanted by them. They always ask for their names and as much history as I can give."

Among the bears at auction at South Kensington on Monday will be Ms Maniera's favourites — a cinnamon-coloured bear with black, boot-button eyes and a large snout (£1,500-£2,000), and a pale gold teddy with large, spoon-shaped feet (£3,000-£4,000).



Stieff teddy bears of circa 1904 (*left*) and 1910

The star of the sale is Elliot, a rare, blue-plush teddy made by the German manufacturers Stieff in 1908. He was a one-off sample for Harrods and came to London in a small batch of coloured bears, but his unusual hue failed to appeal to the store buyer and he was never made commercially. With an estimate of £15,000-£20,000, he is expected to set a new Christie's record for a soft toy.

Standing 13in tall, Elliot has all the characteristics of a Stieff bear — boot-button eyes, long muzzle, curved arms and a hump back. He is stuffed with fine wood shavings and his distinctive blue fur is woven from dyed mohair. Despite his early rejection he has survived well, with jointed limbs displaying their original beige paws and hand-embroidered black thread claws. Little is known about his past, except that he has been in the vendor's family for years.

Apart from his colour, Elliot is similar to Alfonzo, the red Stieff bear sold at Christie's in 1989 for a record £12,100 to Ian Pout, who runs Teddy Bears of Witney, Oxfordshire, a shop specialising in limited edition bears. "We've noticed an increasing demand for new, individually made bears of character and for limited editions by the best makers," Mr Pout says. "These, and most old bears, range from £50-£500, although some exceptional bears cost much more."

Stieff bears, designed from sketches of real bears, have not changed much since they were first made, and their pointed snouts, big paws and long limbs distinguished even the most recent bears. The English bear is a different beast altogether, with flatter face and shorter limbs, as those in the sale by Merrythought, Chad Valley, Pedigree and Chiltern reveal.

Another British manufacturer, J.K. Farnell & Co (1897-1968), whose rare, white-plush bear of the late 1920s is estimated at £800-£1,200, claims to have supplied the bear inspiring A.A. Milne to create Winnie the Pooh.

Other notable bears in the sale include Pull-Along Bear (£1,00-£1,500), a rare precursor of Stieff's jointed bear and designed to emulate a live baiting bear. He stands on hind legs and is fixed to a circular metal base which rotates when pulled.

Just as unusual is a tiny Schuco pink-plush bear with removable head hiding a perfume bottle, while a matching sibling has a metal-framed body which opens to disclose a powder compact and mirror (£150-£200 each).

How can vendors bear to part with their treasured teddies? Since she advertised the sale in *Teddy Bear Times*, the collectors' magazine, Ms Maniera has uncovered many bedtime stories. One woman took her furry heirloom to Christie's because she wanted to ensure that he went to a good home. Another stipulated that a pair of bears must be sold together as they had never been apart. Someone else took in a chair on which Ted had always sat and insisted it was sold with the bear.

Some bears are in better condition than others, but Ms Maniera advises against restoration; leaving torn paws unmended, or making repairs in the original style, helps to retain the value. One poor bear looks very embarrassed about the blue facecloth sewn over his paws, and is likely to fetch less at auction as a result.

Why buy an old bear when you can have a new one? "Vintage hand-made bears have far more character than mass-produced bears," Ms Maniera says. "They are made of better quality materials: mohair plush with wood-shaving stuffing. Modern bears are generally made of synthetics." Who will buy tyhe old bears? "Most will be bought by adults." Ms Maniera says, giving her favourite cinnamon bear a farewell hug.

● *Teddy bear sale, Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LD (071-581 7611). Viewing: Sat Dec 4, 10am-4pm; Mon Dec 6, 9am-6pm. Sale: Mon Dec 6, 7pm.*

THE TIMES AUCTIONS DIARY

LONDON

PHILLIPS - More Sales. More Places. For details telephone (071) 629 6602, ext 320.

ACADEMY AUCTIONEERS - Northcote House, Northcote Avenue, London W5 3UR. Tel: 081 579 7466. Tuesday December 7th at 12.00 noon, sale of jewellery, silver, ceramics and collectables.

CRITERION AUCTION ROOMS - 53 Essex Road, Islington, London N1 2BN. Tel: 071 359 5707. (Angel U'ground). Auction every Monday at 6pm. Antiques and decorative items. Viewing Friday 4pm-8pm. Sat & Sun 11am-3pm and Monday from 10am.

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HC CHAPMAN & SON - The Auction Mart, North Street, Scarborough YO11 1DL. Tel: 0723 372424 or Fax: 0723 500697. Two day catalogue sale to be held on Mon 13th Dec at 2pm. Oil Paintings, watercolours, prints, books & stamps. Tues 14th Dec at 10am and 2pm. Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian furniture, ceramics, glassware, metalware, jewellery, silver, plated wares & two Norton motorcycles. All of which shall be on view Fri 10th Dec 4-7pm; Sat 11th Dec 10am-4pm; Mon 13th Dec 9am-12 noon. Illustrated catalogue £3.50 (incl p&p).

WEST

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HOBBS & CHAMBERS - Market Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1QQ. Tel: 0285 654736. Annual Specialist Picture Sale, 7th December, 1993 at Chapel Walk Saleroom, Cheltenham, Glos. Tel: (0242) 513722. - Antique Furniture and Effects, 10th December, 1993 at Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester, Glos. Tel: (0285) 654736

SEMLEY AUCTIONEERS - Station Road, Semley, Shaftsbury, Dorset SP7 9AN. Tel: 0747 55122. Saturday 4th December & Saturday 18th December, Sales fortnightly. Antique & Collectables 11am.

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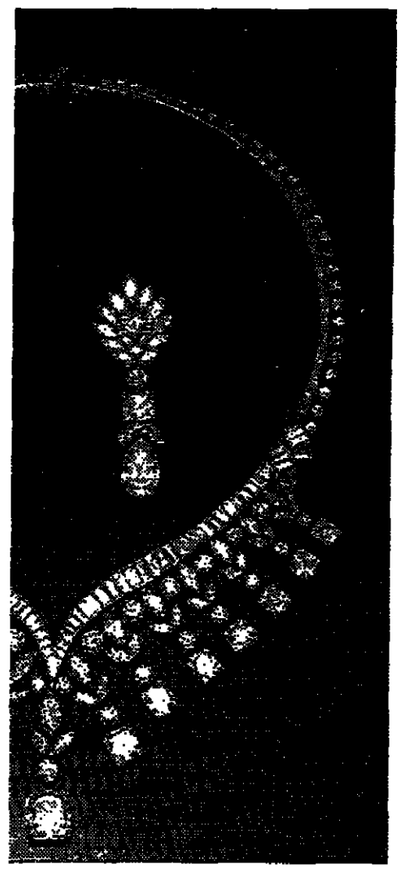
AYLSHAM SALEROOMS - 8 Market Place, Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6EH. Tel: 0263 733195. Fax: 0263 732140. Antique sale to be held on Tues 7th Dec at 10am. Viewing Sat 4th Dec 9-11.30am, Mon 6th Dec 10.30am-8.30pm and from 8.30am on morning of sale. Also Two Day Sale; Day One: Thurs 9th Dec at 3pm, to include prints, frames and unframed items (220 lots). Viewing Thurs 9th Dec 10am-8.30pm. Day Two: Fri 10th Dec at 10am, sale of oils and watercolours (750 lots). Viewing morning of sale from 8.30am.

WILLIAM H BROWN - 11/14 East Hill, Colchester, Essex CO1 2QX. Tel: 0206 868070. Sale Monday 6th December at 1.00pm. China, Glass, Porcelain, Silver & Silver Plate Paintings, Jewellery and Other Collectables including:- 78-Piece Limoges Dinner Service; 86-piece Copeland Spode Dinner Service; Aynsley Coffee Service, silver filigree mounts; Aynsley blue & white Tea service; Bisque-headed doll. Hermesteiner; Silver trumpet shaped vase, 27ozs; 26ozs three-piece silver tea service; Set of 6 English rat-tail soup spoons; Pair Adam style silver candelabra; Mid 19th C hardwood & brass Cabinet; Ivory-handled crumb scoop; early 20th C metal periscope; Pair late 19th C parcel postal scales; Canteen containing silver plated cutlery; Pair late 19th C Japanese bronze vases; Victorian Warming Pan; late 19th C oak candle box; Selection of good quality Victorian & other collectable items.

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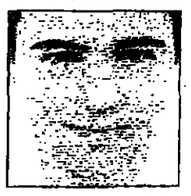
For further details, please contact Alexandra Rhodes in London (071 408 5311) or David Bennett in Geneva (41-22-732 8585).

St. Moritz, Switzerland, 18th & 19th February 1994 a sale of *Magnificent* Jewellery

SOTHEBY'S
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Lucy Berrington checks the progress of three more *Times* readers who are now well into their training programmes for next year's London marathon

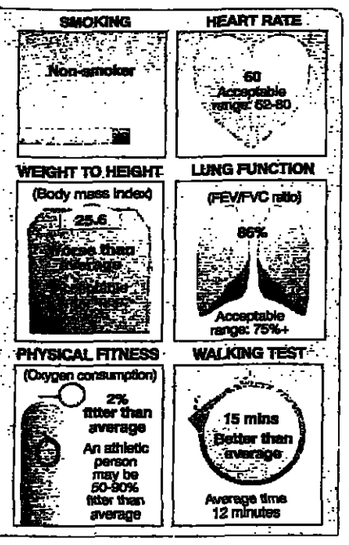
Chris Dunne, 28



Six years ago I used to play football and since then have been running on and off: a month on, two months off (especially after Christmas). I want to do a marathon before I get too old to run it in a decent time. The hardest thing is the motivation. Joining the team will produce some peer pressure from people I know; I can't back down now. I'm going to beat an old friend of mine, who did it a couple of years ago in some ridiculously fast time while still smoking and drinking. It's an old man-young man type of friendly rivalry.

I'm a foreign exchange dealer. My job involves sitting on my backside for ten hours a day, between the lunches and drinking, and I've been away for nearly a month so my training has slowed down. I'm running twice a week instead of four or five times. My training is the advanced programme but when I can I add some of my own.

I have stopped drinking(ish): now it's four pints when I go out instead of eight. My weight has come down by a stone. I've started running at weekends with a few fellows from work; they are getting pulled along in the tide. My ultimate boss reads *The Times* and is watching with avid interest. I think I get a pay rise if I complete the course. (Chris Dunne is a member of Mel Batty's team.)

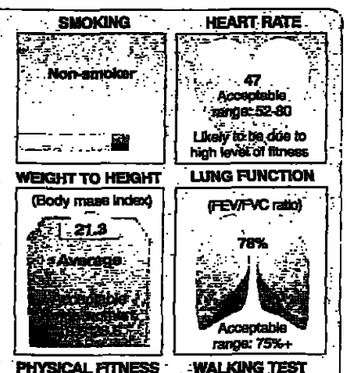


Lyn Plumpton, 61



I run because it is there. Some people swim the Channel, some climb Everest and I run. When I was younger I played hockey, lacrosse and cricket, and for several years was head of girls' PE at a grammar school. Then I left to have my family, taught special needs children in Sussex and for years did very little exercise at all. My husband John joined the local running club during the 1980s. I found myself being the bag lady at races, holding all the gear while John ran. As the field passed I used to watch the women of about my age jogging along at the back, chatting and generally enjoying themselves. I decided I would rather run than stand, and have been running for fun ever since.

We retired to Devon and are so remote that I do all my training alone, although John runs with me when his injured knee permits. I do a couple of six-mile runs a week, with a long run (about 12 miles) at weekends. I'll increase that by two miles each month. I did the Great South ten-mile run in Portsmouth in October in one hour 41 minutes. It's no strain at the moment, but the weather can be absolutely awful. I wear tracksters and a hat and gloves. The first mile is ghastly but after that you don't notice it. (Lyn Plumpton is a member of Mel Batty's team.)



Mick Dunstan, 46

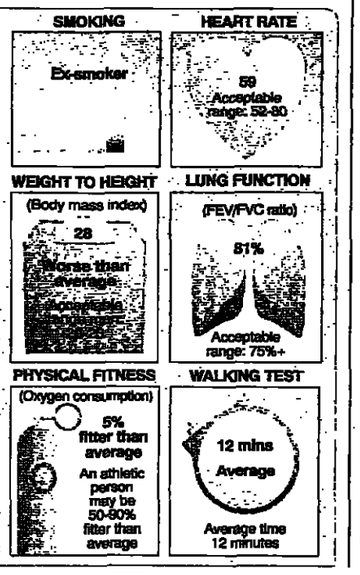


A year ago I was 13 stone, the heaviest I have ever been, and very unfit. I had given up smoking and put on two stone. I started going to aerobics once a week with my wife. I nearly died the first time but I've always enjoyed it. I thought this team would be managed by a green goddess, but it's a bloke in his fifties. He does 40 minutes cardio-vascular training and 20 minutes stretching and says those are the most important things.

When I gave up smoking I told everyone beforehand so there was no going back. This will be the same. I wrote about it for the staff newspaper — I'm a communications development manager for Powergen — and people have offered me use of their exercise bikes.

Normally I try to run 20 miles a week — with a big run on Sunday — but I've not done any training for two weeks. Last night was - 5C, foggy, with crunchy ice underfoot, and I just couldn't push myself out of the door.

Alan Coton, another team member, tried to persuade me to do my first half-marathon but I thought that was a bit premature. I recently spent a weekend hillwalking in Snowdonia, and climbed seven peaks over 3,000ft. I also ran my first ten miles, in one hour 32 minutes. For me this is miraculous. If I can do it anyone can. (Mick Dunstan is a member of Chris Brasher's team.)



Train, but don't strain

Stay fit, but enjoy a little indulgence after all your hard work, in **Mel Batty**'s Christmas training schedule

Christmas is a time for festivities, but for anyone expecting to complete the NutraSweet London Marathon next April, it is also a period for steady running. In fact, because you will be eating and drinking more than usual — and why not, given the training you have been undergoing? — you should carry on with your allotted schedule.

Resist the temptation to do extra training over the holidays simply because you have more time on your hands. This month's milage is already sufficiently increased (even the joggers are asked to run four times a week) without adding further exercise. The golden rule is: train, do not strain.

If you run on Christmas day, make certain to do so before your main meal. Even star athletes do not run after Christmas dinner. Daley Thompson, in fact, trained twice on Christmas day 1983 because he knew that his great German rival Jürgen Hingsen would not be doing so. When you run on Christmas day, you are in the company of the physical élite.

Running can sometimes be quite antisocial. Explain to your family and friends that you have only four months to the marathon and that their support and encouragement are important.

Entries for the London Marathon are confirmed in December, and even if you have not been following our schedules too closely, you may yet be able to complete the course. However, even a good runner will need to apply some dedication in the months to come.

If you are training after an injury, here are some guidelines. Return to the point of the schedule at which you were injured. If you have been out of action for two weeks or less, begin with 75 per cent of the weekly milage. If you have been unable to train for more than four weeks, then do 50 per cent. Build up your mileage to catch up with the schedule over a few weeks.

Do not train if you suffering from a heavy cold or flu. You will only protract your illness. Try to stay in bed.

As you gradually increase the length of your long runs, you should apply Vaseline to toes, nipples and the top of your crotch. This will stop blisters and chafing. If you do get a blister, pierce it with a sterilised needle and then cover it with plaster.

Finally, you should now have two pairs of running shoes. Use them alternately. If you only have one pair, you may find they have become worn and unusable just before a race. Wear a new pair firstly around the home and then walking outside before you have short runs in them.

For joggers, you will be including a fartlek (speed play) session for the first time this month. This consists of some faster running interspersed with jogging. The faster running should not be sprinting. It is simply faster pace running for over two or three minutes.

Advanced group schedule

Week 1: One 80-minute run; two 55-minute runs; two 40-minute fartleks.
Week 2: One 85-minute run; two 55-minute runs; two 40-minute fartleks.
Week 3: One 85-minute run; two 60-minute runs; two 40-minute fartleks.
Week 4: One 90-minute run; two 60-minute runs; two 40-minute fartleks.

Joggers' schedule

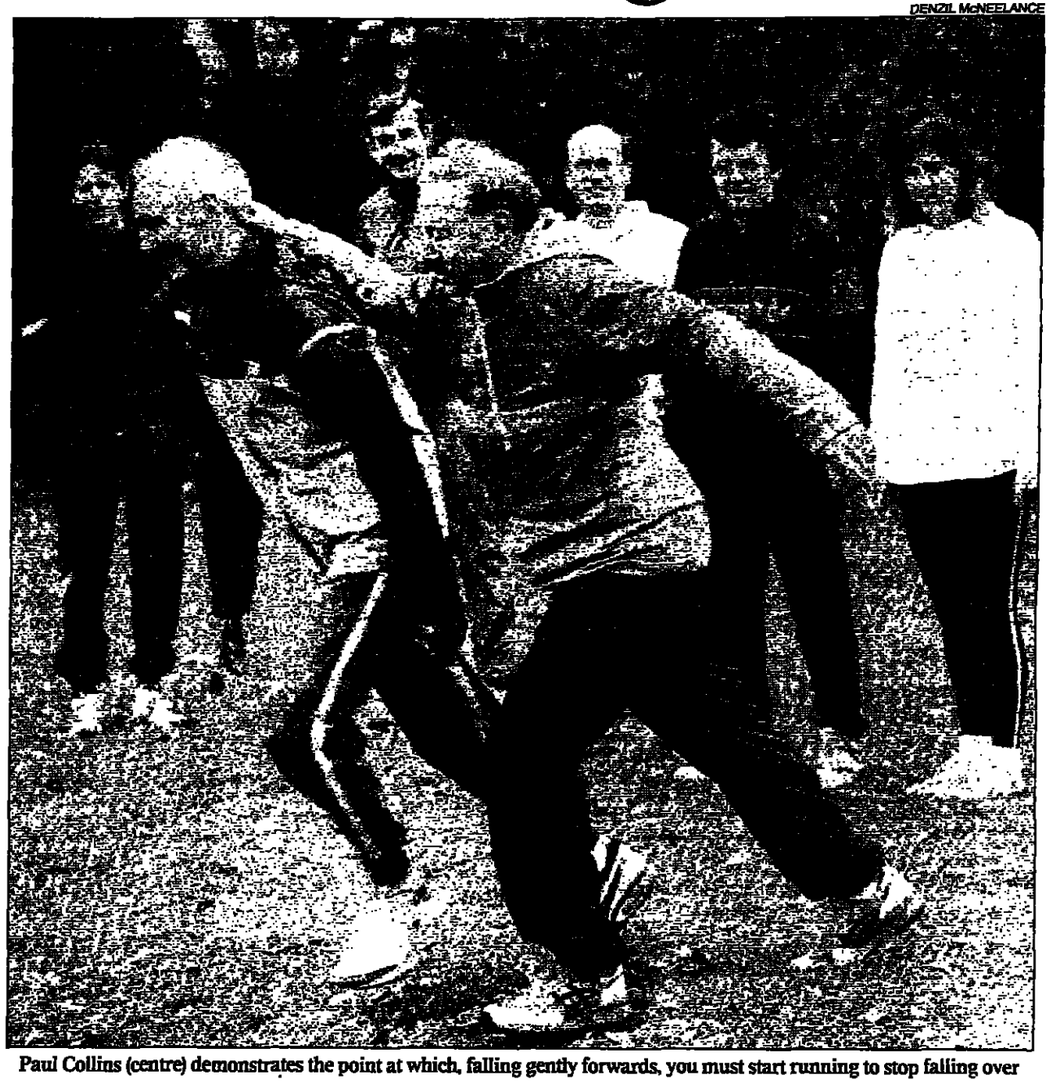
Week 1: One 60-minute jog; one 40-minute jog; one 35-minute jog; one 20-minute fartlek.
Week 2: Same as week 1.
Week 3: One 65-minute jog; one 40-minute jog; one 35-minute jog; one 25-minute fartlek.
Week 4: Same as week 3.

JOHN GOODBODY

Trot, canter and gallop to the finishing line

Just short of 70, Paul Collins, athlete and runners' guru, wants to change the way we move. **John Bryant** reports

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Paul Collins (centre) demonstrates the point at which, falling gently forwards, you must start running to stop falling over

The idea that you might gallop your way through the London Marathon comes as a bit of a shock — even to a trained runner.

But it is even more of a shock to see a running guru, just a lap or two away from his seventieth birthday, get down on all fours and suddenly break into a four-legged gallop in a fair imitation of a horse.

Paul Collins is an athlete, an Alexander technique teacher, and a remarkable animal. He ran for Canada in the Helsinki Olympic Games as long ago as 1952. Soon after, he pulled out of the sport, sidelined by persistent knee and tendon injuries.

At 50 plus, having rebalanced his body and his life with the aid of the Alexander technique — a process of re-educating and rebalancing the way you use, or misuse, your body — he returned to running. Remarkably, by 1983 he was setting records at 200, 300 and 400 miles and competing in six-day and 24-hour ultra-marathons.

He now runs courses on "Alexander and the art of running" in the beautiful setting of Greenham Hall, near Wellington, in the rolling Somerset countryside. There he dispenses wisdom on posture, muscular tension, movement and running.

For runners the Collins message is challenging, unorthodox and refreshing. For anyone condemned by their schedule to building up ever more milage for the London or any other marathon, he has exciting news. He believes that the way you run may be more important than the miles and the hours that you log in your training diary.

Mr Collins has mixed his own cocktail of advice on how you should run. He has blended the Alexander principle with a dash of the teaching of Australian athletics coach Percy Cerutty, and added much from his own rich experience of athletics. His underlying message is simple. Run like a child, he says, or better still run like an animal. Most runners never bother to ask themselves "How do I run?". Not how far, or how fast, but how you move.

Mr Collins teaches that running is a complete flowing action — not something done just by the legs and feet, but something that comes from the whole person.

"Most of the stretches you see runners doing," he says, "actually shorten the muscles. That's the very opposite to what you need."

Instead, Mr Collins gets you lying down before you run. He shows you an established Alexander technique of lying back on the floor with your head propped up on a couple of paperbacks. The legs are rolled gently at the hip and the knees and drawn up to point at the ceiling. You let gravity do the work of stretching and lengthening your spine.

Only when you are stretched and relaxed this way should you run.

The running, too, is different. For his first lesson in running, Mr Collins gets you to stand erect and fall gently forward until you simply run to stop yourself falling over.

Thereafter, his enthusiasm takes over as he quotes Mr Cerutty and tries to turn you into a running animal.

The idea is that you forget about conventional human models and instead study the movement of animals. Run like a horse is the message — trot, canter and gallop instead of trying to jog, stride and sprint.

One of the keys, he explains, is the use of the arms. Not so long ago on the evolutionary stopwatch, mankind first stood up to walk and run on his hind legs. That is when he first began to use his "forelegs" for drive and balance. We should still be thinking of trying to use our arms and hands like forelegs, he says. "Running should begin with the thumbs and end in the feet."

It may sound crazy, but it is fun. Mr Collins grabs the thumbs of his pupils and energetically demonstrates the technique. What follows is a crash course in re-educating the body to run. A touch here, a word there, and soon the elbows are unlocked ("Never, ever run with locked elbows," he says), the head floats balanced on the neck, the arms are low and beating to strange new rhythms and you are running tall, proud and *fast*.

All the time Mr Collins is dropping nuggets of running lore, mined from a lifetime interest in the sport. "Walk often in runs, and even races," he urges. "Throw most of your gimmicky running shoes away and look for simpler ones. If you find one that suits you, buy half a dozen pairs. Continually vary your pace when you run. That is the way of the future. Most of running's world records have been set by people trotting. I think that will all change."

Mr Collins himself runs easily, and looks years younger than his age. He is looking forward to being 70, "because then I can enter a new class in the veterans' races".

In the summer he plans to do "a few 24-hour races". To train for these he puts in some 50-mile runs. "I do them on a Saturday night," he says in a matter-of-fact way. "*All* night. I set out in the twilight as the world is going to sleep. I have a few hours of wonderful peace, running through the night, and then watch the world wake up all over again. It's a great way to run."

Presumably his pupils are out there practising these techniques of movement right now. So do not be too surprised in this year's London Marathon if someone passes you moving like a galloping horse. It will just be someone who has learnt to run differently on the windswept hills of a moor in Somerset.

● *Paul Collins runs courses in Alexander and the art of running at Greenham Hall, near Wellington, Somerset (0823 667685).*



Lesson two: Mr Collins (right) pulls John Bryant's thumbs

Faster, safer

Paul Collins advises:

☐ Always walk for five minutes or so before you run. Walk briskly, using the arms with unlocked elbows. This is much better than traditional stretching techniques for warming-up.

☐ Run tall, don't lean forwards or backwards.

☐ Vary your speed in work-outs, even during very long runs. Use your arms to increase the beat and length of your stride.

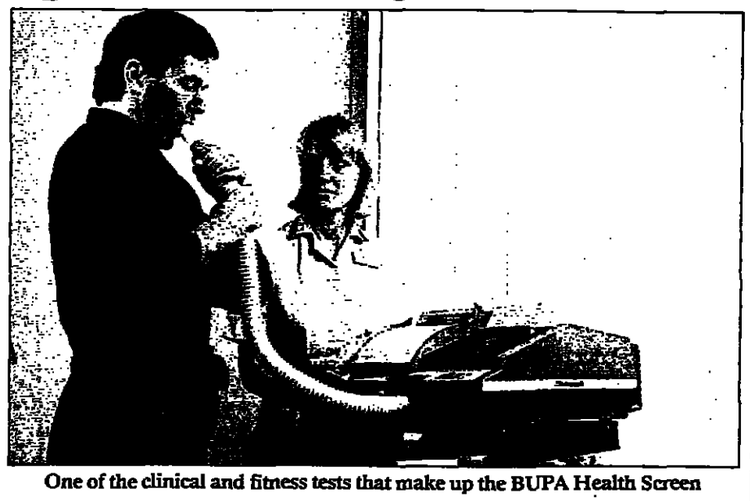
☐ If anything feels uncomfortable during a run, stop, then stand erect while you monitor your body's balance. Move off again fluidly, transferring imperceptibly from a walk to a run.

☐ Many running shoes do as much harm as good; They are often too padded and spongy and have heels that are too high. On good grass you can't beat going barefoot.

TIMES READER OFFER: £100 OFF BUPA HEALTH SCREENING

Taking care of yourself

A body should be treated with respect, given the right diet, exercise and kept stress-free



One of the clinical and fitness tests that make up the BUPA Health Screen

Many people take their bodies for granted. The body comprises complicated and highly efficient infection-fighters which work to destroy invading viruses and bacteria. It can fight its way back from serious illness, major surgery and trauma. As well as caring for your own body, it is a good idea to have an expert health check to make sure everything is in working order. BUPA offers a range of health screening products which help monitor and improve health and fitness.

The BUPA Health Screen is a comprehensive assessment of a person's current state of health and forms the foundation for a programme of regular screens based on individual needs. A BUPA Health Screen includes a series of clinical and fitness tests which check major body functions. A 45-minute consultation with a doctor is also provided.

A blood pressure test is carried out. High blood pressure, if not detected and eliminated or controlled, can result in damage to the body's arteries and organs. There are specific components of the blood, the levels of which can change over time, for example cholesterol, and these are checked.

Our hearing and sight become less keen as we get older but it may not be due simply to ageing. For example, a noisy work environment could result in a steady loss of hearing which may be halted if the cause is identified and remedied.

The risk of many types of cancer is age-related, and so regular screening may pick up early warning signs. Tumours of the breast, cervix or bowel can be detected by regular specialised screening tests, which are particularly recommended where there is a family history.

Any findings relating to diet are discussed. Other tests carried out include an electrocardiogram (ECG), a lung function test and body mass index, joint flexibility and muscle strength tests.

Women aged 40 and over undergo a highly sensitive breast X-ray examination, a mammogram. The correct breast self-examination technique is demonstrated and a copy of a video "Learn about your breasts" is provided.

Within a fortnight a personal health action plan is sent to the client which sets out recommendations to maintain and improve health based on the findings of the screening. The main objective is to ensure that screening can encourage a real improvement in health — an improvement which can be confirmed and enhanced at subsequent health screens.

● The cost of the BUPA Health Screen for women is £366 and £342 for men. They are available to everybody, not just BUPA members.

● BUPA is offering £100 off a BUPA Health Screen to readers of *The Times* who book their screen during December (no other discounts or special rates apply).

● To book an appointment or for further information please telephone free on 0800-800 455 and quote "BUPA 63".

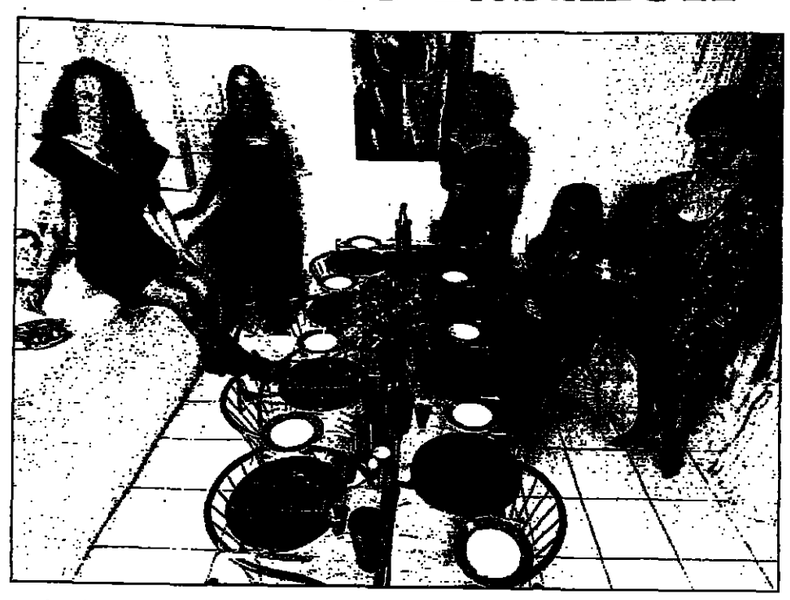
BUPA Health Screening

Janey Impey discovers why putting on the style is important for party caterers

Out of the kitchen and into fashion



Above from left, Jane Sherrard-Smith wears ruby-red velvet jacket with black cord design. £175, Monsoon: black brocade trousers, £49.99, and velvet pumps, £26.99, Next branches and Next Directory (enquiries, 0345 100500); velvet choker, £6.99, from XSRE at Debenhams. Lorna Wing wears black velvet dress, £80, selected branches of Laura Ashley (stockists, 0628 770345); black jet bracelet, £24.99, from XSRE at Debenhams. Diana Young wears red velveteen dress by Java, £84.95 (stockists, 071-328 2725); Butler and Wilson jewellery from XSRE at Debenhams.



Above from left, Jane Sherrard-Smith wears red silk dupion dress, £99, Monsoon; metal heart earrings and pendant, both £4.99, from Accessorize; red suede shoes, £49.99, from Hobbs; tights by Aristoc. Lorna Wing wears long black lace dress by Liz Claiborne, £135 from Selfridges, London W1, and Rackhams, Birmingham (stockists, 071-436 5355); own Jasper Conran jewellery. Diana Young wears dark-green velvet dress by Debut, £99 from Debenhams; gold chain, £149.95, with simulated pearl drop, £39.50, from Ernest Jones and Leslie Davis branches (stockists, 081-905 9000). Chris Roberts wears sparkling jacket by Tom Bowker for Coterie, £285 from Frank Usher boutiques; black panelled cotton jersey dress by Anokhi, £39.99 from Liberty, London W1 (stockists, 081-877 0807); own choker from George Rech. Lyn Hall wears multicoloured sequin jacket, £255, and black sequin top, £95, both from Frank Usher; short black velvet skirt, £34.95, from Monsoon; watch by Rado, style La Coupole, £795, from Mappin & Webb, London W1; Harrods, London SW1; selected branches of Ernest Jones (stockists, 0703 620070).



Above from left, Lyn Hall wears Bruce Oldfield dress, to order (071-584 1363); choker by Farah Lister to order (071-823 9878). Chris Roberts wears cream lace shirt, £129, from branches of Susan Woolf (stockists, 071-258 0311); black sequinned top by Frank Usher, £95; black pleated trousers, £39.99, from branches of Evans; cultured pearl necklace, £499.50, gold hoop earrings, £59.50, with simulated pearl drops, £34.50 per pair, all from Ernest Jones and Leslie Davis branches nationwide.



Above from left, Jane Sherrard-Smith, Diana Young, Lyn Hall, Lorna Wing (seated), Chris Roberts, in Lorna Wing's kitchen. Photographs by Denzil McNeelance, styling by Janet Impey.

Party caterers liken their preparations to a military operation, with planning precision timing and catering efficiency. And this is what keeps caterer Lorna Wing and her staff in demand.

Party catering is not a job for the faint-hearted, especially at Christmas. "I don't expect a free weekend from October through to early January," Miss Wing says. Any time off is juggled between jobs and shared between herself, her three permanent cooks, her assistant Diana Young, and her sister and fellow director, Chris Roberts.

Much of Miss Wing's expertise, gleaned from restaurant management, cooking abroad and trawling eastern markets for mouth-watering ideas, comes together when planning a party. "The joy of working with a small team is that jobs become interchangeable," she says. "As we are all passionate about food, everyone pitches in, whether it is the cooking or coming up with an idea for a party presentation."

Often working from 6am until midnight, Miss Wing thrives not on food but on adrenalin. "Working in an office above the kitchen, where food and drink is so accessible, means it would be easy to put on weight," she says. "I try to be disciplined when I do essential tastings during the day, but in the evening, when I visit each party to ensure things are going smoothly, I'm usually too busy to eat. When I get home late, I'm more interested in sleep than food."

Her own barely stocked refrigerator is testimony to a social life postponed, but she will catch up during January with a spate of dinner parties for friends. "I love informal parties and usually serve simple food, such as shellfish, breads and cheeses, and perhaps a selection of soups, so that people can help themselves," she says. "Table setting is important, and I'll lay a table up to a week in advance if timing is going to be tight."

Miss Wing's skills are appreciated by her friends and clients, private and corporate, including fashion companies. "My business changed direction about nine years ago when Jasper Conran became a client," she says. "Until then, I'd been a competent but boring cordon bleu cook. Taking on fashion clients meant I had to think in terms of themes and colours, and use my imagination to develop ideas."

She also began to dress differently. "I try to dress according to the client, because people judge you by your clothes. When I'm doing work for a designer, I dress in a very understated way. I like to wear elegant, unfussy clothes: one of my favourite outfits is a velvet *devoré* bodysuit from Jasper Conran worn with crêpe de Chine trousers.

"Backstage organisation demands practical clothes in dark colours. I mostly wear trousers and flat shoes for moving around quickly. I'm also careful about my choice of jewellery, as heavy, swinging earrings could come off in the food."

One particular challenge, Miss Wing recalls, was when they had to provide lunch for 250 estate agents at the launch of the Canary Wharf tower in London's Docklands. "The building was still under construction, and work stopped for nobody. When getting the food and equipment up to the 17th floor, we had to share the lift with building materials, and coincide our loading time with that of the builders.

"All the guests and staff had to wear hard hats — which was a pretty incongruous sight at a formal lunch — but the worst part was cooking in a temporary kitchen in an unfinished part of the building, open to the elements. It was so cold that the cooks had to put their oven gloves into the ovens to heat up and then wrap them over their ears."

To avoid problems, Miss Wing says her company thinks through every detail of an event well in advance, whether it is a dinner for eight in a private house, or a party for 450 at, say, the Natural History Museum.

For large functions, waiting staff, kitchen porters and extra cooks have to be engaged, and tables, chairs, glasses, cutlery and plates hired. Organising a location, toastmasters, entertainers, flowers, lighting and music can also be part of the service, so knowing people who will provide a reliable service is essential. Just making sure that everyone knows where and when to present themselves or their goods is time-consuming.

Much to Miss Wing's relief, her sister shoulders responsibility for much of the telephone and paperwork. "I'm the lucky one," Miss Roberts says. "Being office-bound, my hours are much more regular and so my social life doesn't suffer as much as the others. I have become interested in cooking, and I get great pleasure from entertaining at home for friends.

"I like to dress up for these occasions, but whatever I wear, comfort is important. But I don't think my present clothes reflect my true personality; I'd really love to wear something quite slinky."

Miss Young, who prefers unruffled, classic clothes, has worked for Miss Wing for two years and learnt a lot about food presentation and taste combinations, which stretch way beyond her cordon bleu background. "I'm much more adventurous with my own cooking these days," she says, "but the most important thing is to prepare food in advance so that you are free to spend time with your guests."

A recent dinner for a cosmetics company with 102 guests, at the Victoria & Albert museum, tested her abilities to the full. As the last of the public were ushered from the building, there were only two hours to set up a kitchen, organise the bar staff, brief the kitchen and waiting staff, lay tables and produce a three-course meal.

Helping her was *sous chef* Jane Sherrard-Smith. Kitted out in her unflattering, but hygienic, hat and chef's white clothing, she is hard to visualise as the same person who dresses in exotic colours and has a penchant for ethnic clothing. "You wouldn't recognise any of us at one of our own parties," she says.

When party caterers take time off to attend their own parties, food and fashion start to fizz. Lyn Hall, one of the regular freelance cooks, agrees. "We all like the chance to dress up after the severity of the working clothes," she says. "But the best thing about being invited to friends' parties is that you can enjoy the food and drink and forget the washing-up."

● *Lorna Wing, Studio 21, The Talina Centre, Bagleys Lane, London SW6 2BW (071-731 5105).*

Continuing our series on the whims and habits of modern society

THE EXPORT
Next year's best-dressed Italian garden will be wearing deadly nightshades, courtesy of Dan Pearson, gardening guru for the Conran Shop. Carlo Caracciolo, the chairman of Italian magazine *L'Espresso*, has commissioned Pearson to transform his garden with black clover, black irises and blood red roses.
(Conran Shop 071-589 7401)

THE IMPORT
By a spooky coincidence, a different type of "espresso" has just arrived on these shores. Italian company Baritalia (no relation to the Soho hangout) has introduced the instant espresso; just press the base of the plastic cup and clever chemicals heat the liquid. Is this the end of the Thermos?
(0273 321600)

THE PONCHO
Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No — it's a man in a cape. In the States, fashion magazines are featuring Mexican-striped versions by Ralph Lauren, head poncho honcho. And in this country, a few brave men wore ponchos at the recent Perudo championships.

THE BOYCOTT
Beauty cream addicts are rushing back to buy Neutrogena now that it's off Greenpeace's list of boycotted Norwegian products. Having relocated production out of Norway, the company is no longer a target for the campaign to end Norwegian commercial whaling. But their prawns, salmon and duvets are still off the shopping list.
(071-354 5100)



THE BOOK
After *Dirty Weekend* by Helen Zahavi comes another trawl through the dark side of the female imagination: *We so Seldom Look on Love* by Barbara Gowdy (Flamingo £5.99). *The Mills & Boon* cover belies the stories of necrophilia, water on the brain and a two-headed man. Let's hope Michael Winner doesn't read this one.

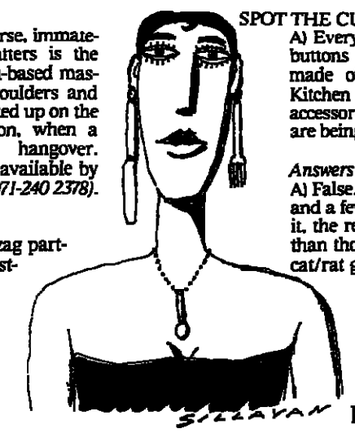
THE WINE
The demon drink this winter must be Casillero del Diablo — The Devil's Cellar, a Cabernet Sauvignon from Chile. Wickedly adorned with a devil's head seal and red ribbon, who cares what the wine's like?
(Rawlings Voigt 071-403 9191)

THE ACCESSORY
Stick-thin waifs are weighed down by fossils around their necks — the real thing, that is, not men old enough to be their fathers. According to Eaton's Shell Shop, the top sellers are ammonites and the dagger-like polished orthocerous. Talk about suffering for fashion.
(071-379 6254)

THE BOOK
Designer Vivienne Westwood is currently reading *The Romantic Agony* by Mario Praz (Oxford Paperbacks £8.95), a study of pain and pleasure in literature. Westwood's reading is known to influence her collections. What might this book inspire?

THE HAIR I
The cut itself is, of course, immaterial. What *really* matters is the accompanying Shiatsu-based massage for the head, shoulders and neck. Paul Windle picked up on the idea in a Tokyo salon, when a massage cured his hangover. Shiatsu massages are available by request from Windle *(071-240 2378)*.

THE HAIR II
The crazy-paving, zig-zag parting could be a post-grunge backlash against the straight centre part. But hair stylist Colin Roy, on a shoot for *French Vogue*, says irregular partings are simply more interesting.



SPOT THE CULT: TRUE OR FALSE?
A) Everyone's getting their belly buttons pierced. B) Gloves are made of cat and rat fur. C) Kitchen utensils are worn as accessories. D) Skateboard parks are being turned into swimpools.

Answers
A) False. Only a couple of models and a few bank clerks have done it, the rest of us remain wholier than thou. B) True. In Kashmir, cat/rat gloves are commonplace. C) True. A couple were spotted in London wearing a sieve and a colander as hats. D) *False. It would play* havoc with lane rules.

FIONA THOMPSON

Cold comfort on the road

WAY back in the halcyon days of May, when the sun shone and night fell quite a long time after tea and all I had to worry about was completing a brisk ten-minute walk round the lake, I knew there would be weeks like this. It fleetingly crossed my mind then that November might prove a tad less comfortable.

Autumn is not a very enthusiastic sort of season. Dead leaves and rotting apples; Brussels sprouts; losing the ice-scraper; deciding if it is more fashionable to have a flu jab or the flu; supermarkets assuming we only eat Christmas puddings and Belgian chocolates after the clocks go back; summer a mere memory. In any other year, this is the signal for a tortoise-like mental and physical shutdown until the spring. If the Great Being wanted to give me a really hard time he/she could do worse than bring me back as a Lapp, a polar bear or even a small glacier.

AS if all this is not bad enough, sunset at 4pm means I need to learn the specialised discipline of running in the dark. The rules and etiquette of street training are very different from the park, which is out of bounds after dusk unless I can borrow Bill Clinton's jogging minders or their weaponry. No headphones — they mask the sound of motorists and people with criminal intent (sometimes one and the same). Instead of meandering through the park as the mood takes me, I have to pre-plan my intended route to avoid crossing major roads and to steer clear of deserted streets. Also, finding myself on the other side of the windscreen, I try to remember how irritating it is when runners bob up and down on the kerbside before suddenly jaywalking right in front of your bonnet. I am now that jogger.



CHRISTINE WHEELER

If you can make eye contact with car drivers, they are morally obliged to stop — or not, in which case you can beat the car roof with a rolled-up copy of *The Highway Code*. Van drivers are the joggers' friends: they will almost certainly let you cross, loudly exhorting you to keep going — although perhaps not in the most encouraging words. They positively relish their complete lack of political correctness, the feminist movement having passed them by.

If I lived in certain states of America, I could probably have them arrested for verbal harassment without prior written consent and sue for so much money I could afford to buy a stretch limo to take me round the course in April. I confine myself to a grin and a cheery wave.

I still try to do most of my training in daylight in the park, where the grass cushions the concussion, very important for disintegrating oldies such as me. At the beginning of November, I took the unilateral decision to stick to three 25-minute jogs per week for the whole month, going up to 30 minutes if I felt particularly adventurous. I needed to consolidate. The past two months' training has been erratic, with the essential routine broken first by holidays and then by my crocked knee. Confidence drained away. At the end of October sometimes I simply could not carry on for more than 15 minutes. Perhaps the weather was gloomy; I was nervous about the injury; or Jupiter was not aligned with Mars. Whatever the reason, I was going backwards, and it did the morale no good at all. By the end of November, I felt decidedly more comfortable with my times; a regular schedule has been re-established, and I have regained my enthusiasm to push on, even striding out into the snow in sub-zero temperatures and almost enjoying it.

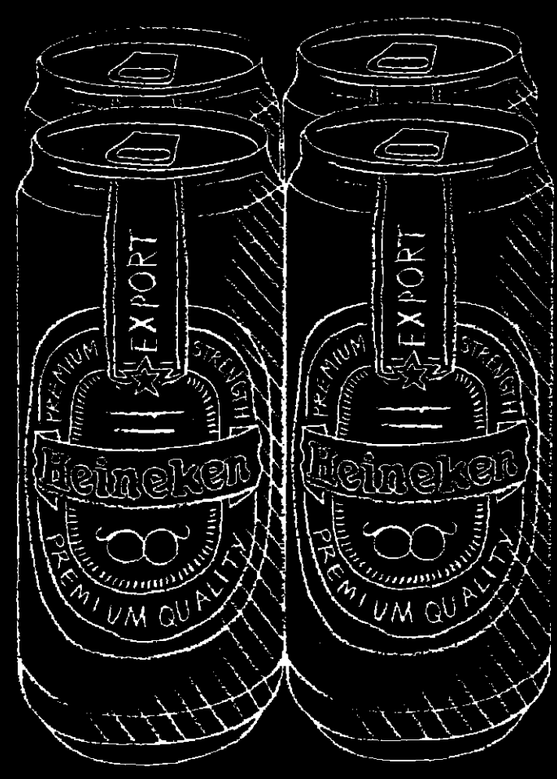
THE Achilles tendons seem to have got the message, bowed to the inevitable and stopped complaining but, at the risk of turning this into "Limb trauma — A Doctor Writes", I have discovered that a well-turned ankle and a delicately high foot-arch may be much prized, but in the land of joggers they are major disadvantages. The arch does not get enough support from my training shoe. Result: pain. Remedy: chiropody felt, available from any good chemist, cut to a secret pattern passed down through generations of athletes and stuck in the shoe to give extra cushioning.

I am discovering parts of Boots I wish I did not know existed, and spending my evenings revisiting *Blue Peter*: paper templates, cutting a shape, sticking, tapering and trimming. Any bits left over are added to my rapidly growing, disorganised pile of jogging paraphernalia spreading across the bedroom carpet, which is causing some irritation. "Chris, you are living in the middle of a perpetual jumble sale. I have never seen such depressing clothes. It is like the England dressing room after San Marino."

● *Next month: learning to live with permafrost.*

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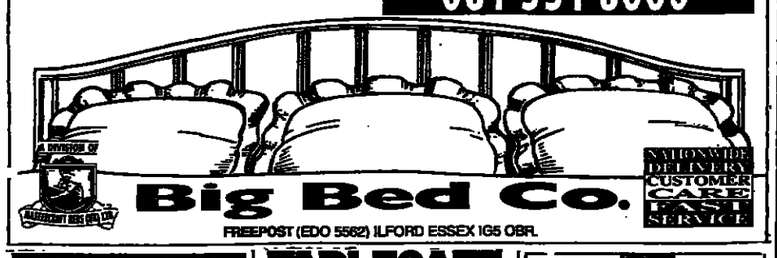


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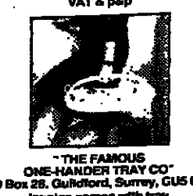
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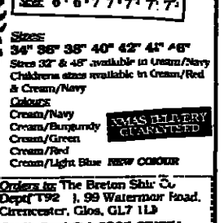
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ENTERTAINMENTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 17.

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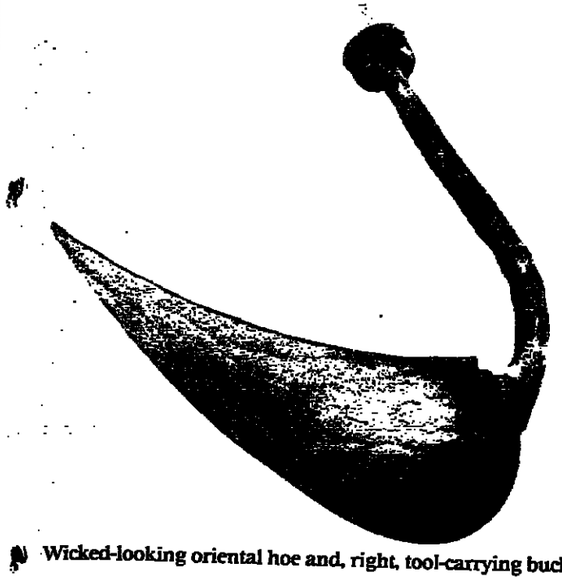
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صكذا من الاصل

Helping hand for green fingers





Wicked-looking oriental hoe and, right, tool-carrying bucket-seat from The Traditional Garden Supply

Francesca Greenoak on presents to fill a gardener's welly

Tools from the past and from other cultures exercise a special fascination; whenever I travel I look to see what people are using. Since I like to give tools as Christmas presents, I was pleased to find an attractive and unusual selection in the catalogue of The Traditional Garden Supply. Many of the tools offered originate in other European countries, or even much further afield.

My selection nearly ended up as exhibition pieces because my husband said they were too good to use. However, I sneaked them into the garden, where I found they performed handsomely. My favourite was Ho-Mi, an oriental hoe (£14.99) with a wicked-looking claw curving from an ash handle, which worked well for loosening soil, digging holes for bulbs and sets, and mounding and levelling soil.

As the ground in our district is hard and heavy, a garden mattock (£17.99) is useful for making inroads into overgrown and uncultivated land. This long-handled garden spade with an ace-of-clubs shaped blade is more familiar in the Mediterranean than in England, but took surprisingly little time to get accustomed to, and made quick work of digging, turning and breaking the soil on a bed which needed clearing. The set of three hand-tools — a transplanting trowel marked off in inches, a slim, L-shaped Cape Cod weeder for awkward cracks between paving, and a springy three-clawed weeder, all in a drawstring canvas bag (£37.99) — was also useful.

Hose-guides (£12.99 for a set of four) spike into the ground at strategic points, to prevent hoses from snaking wildly at the edge of borders.

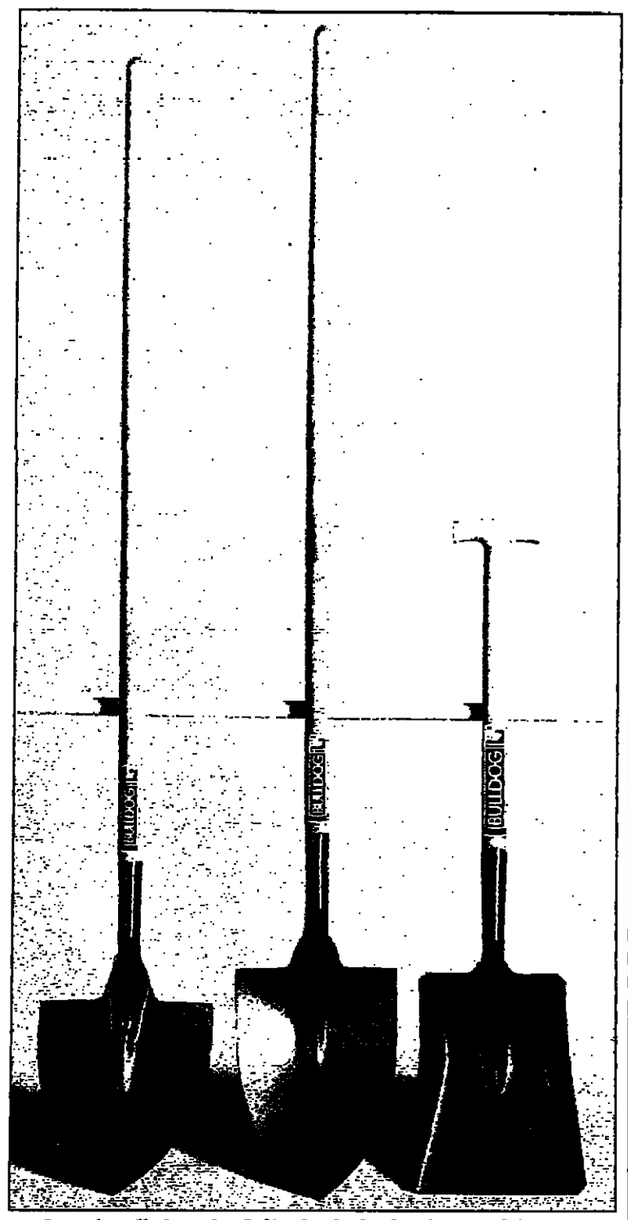
A crafty idea converts a standard two-gallon tub into a seat and garden-sundries carrier: slap a sturdy lid on top of the tub, and fit a skirt with tool pockets (£19.99). The lid can be used as a kneeler, but is less comfortable than a purpose-made one. The Bosmat (£3.80, from larger garden centres), made of high density foam, is tough enough to protect even from flints and sharp stones.

The Reid and Waterers catalogue offers a selection of nicely proportioned Haws watering cans (from the small brass one at £19.95 to the two-gallon one with a brass rose at £44.50), excellent for container and conservatory watering. The sturdy florists' buckets are invaluable as temporary receptacles for long-stemmed cut flowers and attractive enough to use as vases. They come in galvanised or green (12 or 15in high, £32.50 to £39.50). For table decorations of smaller cut flowers the pretty colonnade vases hold single or double bunches (£6.95, £11.45).

Agriframes has produced its first Christmas catalogue, through which you can buy its freestanding obelisk frames for clematis or roses (about £50-£80), easily assembled arches and screens, as well as bronze animal statuary, cards and the informative Periwinkle videotapes.

If you like to see what you are buying, go to the celebrated Christmas fair at the Museum of Garden History, Lambeth, today and tomorrow. You can view its historic garden tools and find a selection of gifts to suit anyone with an interest in gardens and gardening.

● *The Traditional Garden Supply, Unit 12 Hewitts Industrial Estate, Elmbridge Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8LW (0483 273366); Reid and Waterers, The Heath, 462 Staines Road, Middlesex TW4 5DS (0345 626268); Agriframes, Charlswood Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 2HG (0342 328644). Kneelers available from The Museum of Garden History, Lambeth Palace Road, Lambeth, south London (071-262 1890): Christmas fair today 11am-4pm; tomorrow 10.30am-4pm.*



Long-handled spades (left) take the back-ache out of digging

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Repair fences, walls and trellis while plants are in winter dormancy.*
- *Cut canes of autumn-fruiting raspberries to ground level.*
- *If the soil is frozen or waterlogged, store bare-rooted plants in a cool, frost-free place until the soil condition improves.*
- *Harvest calabrese early this month; stake Brussels sprouts if they are exposed to strong winds.*
- *Send off your seed order for next year in good time.*

A healthy home in a bed of stone

Gravel mulch is not only decorative, it can protect tender young plants

Gravel can be chic. Imagine the black, strappy leaves and juicy berries of lily turf (*Ophiopogon*) stretching over a sheet of pure white limestone chippings, add a few pink boulders from the beach and you almost have a Häagen-Dazs ice-cream advertisement. Such a feature needs little attention from a gardener.

A gravel mulch is not for every garden: it is rooted in that outdoor-room Californian style, and speaks of hotter climates. But perhaps in town, among walls and heat, where the succulence of England is not so obvious, there is a place for gravel.

A scree garden is another place for a gravel mulch, so long as you accept that you are making a model landscape; a flat or sloping scree garden surrounded by hedges and soft English lawns will always be something of a contradiction of natural conditions; nobody expects to see lowland lawns and alpine screes in the same scene.

Whatever your reason to mulch with gravel, it can be an easy way of gardening if well applied. A 2in-layer of washed gravel (chippings without any finer particles in it) makes a safe seedbed for young plants. The planted seeds will benefit from lack of competition, and cool moist roots; any other seeds that wash through and germinate are easily removed.

Gravel is the thin end of a very ornamental wedge. Half-inch chippings will give a pleasant contrast under alpines, cushion plants, and dwarf shrubs. Gravel — stone — can also be used as a mulch on a different scale. A bed of gravel topped with pebbles makes an interesting apron for shrubs in winter and, since the invention of leaf-sucking and blowing machines, such textures can be freed of autumn leaves. It would be possible to make gradual changes in pebble size across a deep bed, offering all kinds of foliage contrast.

The tricky thing about a gravel plot is knowing where and how to end it. It certainly cannot fizzle out into bare soil, and it is never quite comfortable meeting a grass edge, as it is too easily infiltrated by running grasses. The most satisfactory answer is to contain it with hard landscaping, such as walls or paving.

The gravel mulch should be laid over well-prepared ground which is not going to be disturbed regularly, and a 2in-layer should provide a reasonably weed-free surface.

For an even surer weed-free surface, lay a fine fibre sheet membrane, such as Plantex, between the soil and the mulch. This allows air, moisture and nutrients to pass through to roots, and conserves the moisture in the soil better than mulch alone, but prevents weeds from penetrating the soil below.

Planting is done by cutting a cross in the newly laid membrane and peeling back the four corners to expose the soil below. Planting takes place through the hole, and the mulch is then spread all over, holding down the membrane over the roots. Kew Gardens' outstation at Wakehurst Place in Sussex has used this technique on a large scale to establish new plantings after the great storms of recent years. The result is healthy tree and shrub beds with little or no weed growth.

If gravel is used, it can be made a positive feature. Gravel, after all, need not be grey; it can be black, pink, white, green, speckled, broken, rounded. Victorian parterres even used brick dust, fluorspar and glass chips to colour the different sections of the ground plan.

STEPHEN ANDERTON

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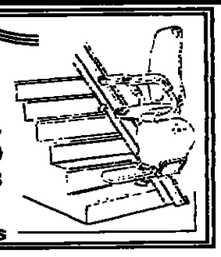
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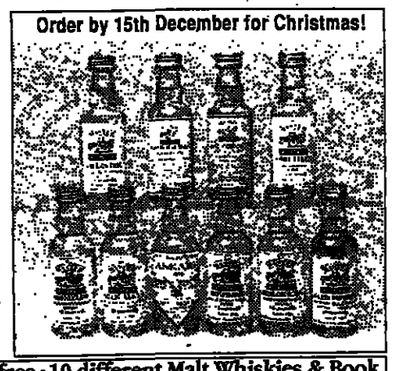
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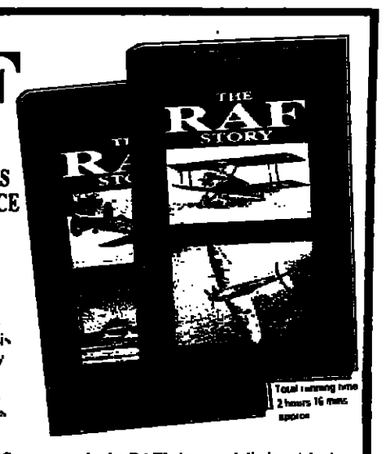
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Shows, outings and unusual seasonal events

LONDON

☐ **Cinderella:** traditional family pantomime at riverside venue. *Watermans Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford, Middx (081-568 1176). Today, 2pm and 6pm; tomorrow, 2.30pm. Until Jan 8. £8.25, child £5.*

☐ **Wind in the Willows:** Kenneth Grahame's classic brought to the stage by Alan Bennett. *Royal National Theatre, Upper Ground, SE1. (071-928 2252). Today until March in repertory. 2pm and 7.15pm. £8.50, child £6.50.*

☐ **Ernest Read Concerts:** a celebration for Christmas. Audience carols. *Royal Festival Hall, Belvedere Road, SE1. (071-928 8800). Today, 3.15pm and 4.45pm. Adult, child from £4.*

☐ **Christmas Craft Fair:** Face painting, plate-spinning, juggling and balloon modelling workshops. *Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, N22 (081-547 1566). Today 10.30am-5.30pm; tomorrow 10am-5.30pm. £4.50, child £2.50.*

☐ **Red Riding Hood:** traditional Christmas pantomime. *Theatre Royal, Stratford, E15 (081-534 0310) Today until Jan 29, 2.15pm and 7.15pm. From £4 (concs, child half price).*

☐ **Beauty and the Beast:** a magical play for Christmas season. *Unicorn Theatre, 6-7 Great Newport Street, WC2. (071-836 5366). Today at 11am and 2.30pm; tomorrow 2.30pm and weekends to Jan 25. Adult, child from £4.50.*

☐ **Sleeping Beauty:** play with music for six-year-olds upwards. *Polka Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway, SW19. (081-543 4888). Today 2pm and 5.30pm, and Tues-Sat until Feb. Adult, child £7.50.*

☐ **Dick Whittington:** pantomime by British Airways cabin crew. *Beck Theatre, Grange Road, Hayes, Middx. (081-561 8371). Today (last day) at 1.30pm, 4.30pm and 8pm. £6, child £4.*

☐ **Fantastical Legend of Dr Faust:** by English Shakespeare Company. Original music by John Pinter and life-size sculptures. *Shaw Theatre, Euston Road, NW1 (071-388 1394). From Mon to Dec 18, 2.30pm (some 11am matinees). Tour in spring. Adult, child £5.*

AVON

☐ **Mother Goose:** family pantomime with Chris Harris. *Bristol Old Vic, King Street (0272 250250). Today, 2.15 and 7.15pm, until Jan 22. £4, child from £2.*

BEDFORDSHIRE

☐ **Christmas Trains to Father Christmas:** with hot mince pies and presents. *Leighton Buzzard Railway, Page's Park Station, Billington Road, Leighton Buzzard (0525 373888). Today 11am-3pm, tomorrow 10.30am-3pm and weekends until Dec 19). Adult, child £3.*

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

☐ **Victorian Christmas Weekend:** Father Christmas in the toll house — nativity plays, carols. *Chiltern Open Air Museum, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles (0494 871117). Today, tomorrow, 11am-3pm. £2.50, child £2, under three free.*

CHESHIRE

☐ **Father Christmas Down at the Farm:** cows in the cattlesheds, nativity scenes, grotto, entertainment. *Home Farm, Tatton Park, Knutsford (0565 654822). Today, tomorrow, weekends to Dec 19) 11.30-3.30pm. £2.75, child £2.*



Fantastical Dr Faust

CORNWALL

☐ **Padstow Carols:** century-old carols for children, sung during procession round town. *Meet market square, Padstow (0841 533102). Tomorrow 6pm (lights switched on), and Dec 12, 19, 7.30pm. Free.*

DORSET

☐ **Tank exhibition** plus tank-ride simulator and video theatres. *Bovington Tank Museum, Bovington Camp, Wareham. (0929 403463). Today and tomorrow, 10am-5pm. £4, child £2.*

ESSEX

☐ **Aladdin:** traditional pantomime with flying carpet. *Queen's Theatre, Billet Lane, Hornchurch (0708 443333). Today 2.30pm and 7.30pm (to Jan 29). £9, child £5.75.*

GREATER MANCHESTER

☐ **Christmas Carol:** play adaptation of Dickens' classic tale starring Nick Conway (of *Bread*) for five-year-olds up. *Octagon Theatre, Howell Croft South, Bolton. (0204 20661). Today, 7.30pm (runs to Jan 8). £6.50, child £4.*

HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

☐ **Jack and the Beanstalk:** pantomime at family theatre. *Swan Theatre, The Moors, Worcester, (0905 27322). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm (to Jan 8). £9, child £7.*

HERTFORDSHIRE

☐ **Wildlife exhibition:** BBC Wildlife Photograph of Year exhibition, tawny owl nestbox, beehives, wildlife garden. *Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, St Albans (0727 819340). Today, 10pm-5pm and tomorrow 2pm-5pm. Free.*

KENT

☐ **Festival of Trees:** hide-and-seek in tunnel system lit with Christmas trees in old fortress. *Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham (0634 847747). Today and tomorrow 10.30-4.30, daily to Dec 30. £2.50, child £1.50.*

☐ **Snow Queen carnival and olde English fayre:** characters on float procession, stalls, music. *Mid-Kent shopping centre, Allington; carnival in Grace Avenue (0622 676196). Today, 11am; procession 2pm. Free.*

☐ **Dickensian Christmas:** artificial snow machine, fun-fair, ice-skating rink, street entertainers. *Rochester town centre (0634 843666). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm. Free.*

NEWCASTLE

☐ **Cinderella:** pantomime starring Philippa Wilson. *Newcastle Playhouse, Barras Bridge (091-232 7079). Today at 2pm and 7pm (to Jan 8). £10.50, child £6.50.*

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

☐ **Aladdin:** pantomime with Sally Ann Matthews. *Nottingham Playhouse, Wellington Circus, Nottingham (0602 419419). Today 2.30pm, 7.30pm (to Jan 15). £10, child £6.*

OXFORDSHIRE

☐ **Animation exhibition:** 10-foot high moving skeleton, life-size puppet with strings to pull. *Banbury Museum, 8 Horsefair, Banbury. (0295 259855). Today 10am-4.30pm, daily except Sun, Mon (to Jan 15). Free.*

YORKSHIRE

☐ **St Nicholas Fayre:** street market, fairground, craft fairs, choirs and bands. *Parliament Street, St Sampson's Square, King's Square, Newgate, in York. (0904 611570). Today 9.30am-5pm. Free.*

☐ **Santa Special:** steam ride through countryside to visit Santa in woodland grotto. *Kirklees Light Railway, Clayton West, Huddersfield. (0484 865727). Today and tomorrow (weekends, then Dec 22/23), 11am. £5, child £3.*

JANE BIDDER



SIMON WALKER

Goats, sheep and Nina the camel are all part of the cast in the Nativity play at London Zoo; children can also meet the zoo's reindeer

Zoo Nativity play is the living thing

WHERE ARE you from, then?" says Isaac the Innkeeper to Melchior the Wise Man.

"Oh, from the East," says Melchior, in a voice more Ilford than Isfahan.

"I could tell you weren't from round here by your camel," says Isaac. And he should know, because he (and Melchior and Amos the Shepherd) are all animal handlers at London Zoo. The camel is Nina, a huge Bactrian, and the Nativity play is taking place in the zoo's open-air amphitheatre.

Isaac, Amos and Melchior are the backbone of the (human) cast; Mary, Joseph, Balthazar, Caspar and the other shepherds (Bemos and Thermos) are played by children from the audience. The rest of the cast is made up of goats and sheep and Tutti Frutti the donkey. One year a barn owl was in the show, and once Long John Silver turned up with Charlie the macaw.

The zoo has put on its Living Nativity for the past four years, a show which Roger Tomlinson, the events co-ordinator, happily admits is "half Nativity play, half pantomime". There is also a chance for children to visit Father Christmas, be given a present and meet the reindeer. The result is a mix of education and fun. Because the children know the story, they contribute greatly to the show: "Are you shepherds?" enquired a youngster as the three animal handlers huddled against the snow in their snug artificial beards. "No, they're ZZ Topp on tour," replied another. "They can't be shepherds," said a third. "Shepherds don't wear trainers." Last year, Mary, aged eight, proudly announced that her baby was a girl.

LOUISA YOUNG

● *The Living Nativity: London Zoo (071-722 3333) at 2pm today and tomorrow, and Dec 11, 12, 18 and 19. Santa and reindeer, noon-1.45pm and 2.45-4pm. Free. Zoo admission: £6.50, child four-14 £4, under-fours free, concs £5.*

Panto for a princess

See a show in a royal palace, says **Lynne Greenwood**

In her diary entry for Monday, December 30 1833, the 14-year-old Princess Victoria recorded the Christmas trip to Covent Garden to see the pantomime Old Mother Hubbard and Her Dog.

Home at Kensington Palace, she wrote in bold, loopy handwriting: "The scenery was very pretty ... and Miss Poole who appeared as Mother Hubbard looked very pretty and acted very well indeed. The panarama (sic) at the end was also pretty."

That same pantomime will be re-enacted this Christmas, in performances open to the public, in the regal surroundings of the palace's Red Saloon — the room where the young Queen held her accession council in 1838.

Staff of the Historic Royal Palaces, inspired by the entries in the princess's diary, have decided to recreate a Royal Christmas of 160 years ago.

In the room next to the Red Saloon, a traditional Santa Claus, in classic long red coat, wide black belt (buckled around several pillows), and black leather boots will talk to children and their families about the history of this popular Christmas character.

Bill Tuck, who impersonates Santa, has researched the traditions of Santa from the days of St Nicholas to the present. He will tell children about his background — and what he enjoys about dropping down chimneys (though he will not give presents).

"We want to entertain and educate at the same time," says Laura Capellaro, interpretation co-ordinator for the *Historic Royal Palaces*. "The palace is beautifully decorated in the style of a Victorian Christmas to give families a taste of celebrations of times past."

An evergreen Christmas holly bough, used by the early Victorians before fir trees became popular, trimmed with candied fruits and sweets, will decorate The Red Saloon. Underneath will be a traditional Nativity scene.

In an adjacent room, the Teck Saloon, Santa's home for the seven days of the celebrations, there will be a fir tree, lavishly decorated with reproduction Victorian Christmas cards from the collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

But the highlight of the celebrations will be the pantomime. Although it is impossible to build a stage in the Red Saloon, the performance group Timedance will create a theatre atmosphere by using the closed wooden shutters and rich red drapes with gold tassels as a backdrop.

Because of the restrictions on lighting within the palace, they will create a Victorian footlights effect small spotlights instead of authentic Victorian lighting.

Jane Gingell, director of Timedance and a specialist in period dress, has condensed the original pantomime, which lasted a whole evening, into a play of about 35 minutes. Many directions merely indicate "comic business", which was more important than the dialogue.

Timedance's cast of six includes a specialist in the 1830s style of ballet and a commedia dell'arte expert.

There will be chairs but most of the audience will be expected to either sit on the floor or stand around the group of performers.



EARL BEESLEY

The sumptuous surroundings of Kensington Palace make a unique backdrop

Although Princess Victoria made no reference to the story of Old Mother Hubbard in her diary, a review of the show was printed in the December 1833 issue of *The Ladies' Penny Gazette*.

After telling readers the story, which takes place on the Island of Flatheads, "the inhabitants of which have at once very large, very laughing, and very pancake-like pericraniums", it concludes that it was one of the worst pantomimes ever seen.

"At the fall of the curtain, the Clown was not allowed to deliver his announcement of repetition without the accompaniment of a great deal of hissing." Jane Gingell, who read the review as part of her research, says: "We're determined to do better than that!"

● *Old Mother Hubbard and Her Dog, in the Red Saloon, Kensington Palace, Dec 27-Jan 3, (except New Year's day) 11.30am, 1pm, 2.30pm (071 937 9561). Performance is free; admission to palace £3.90, child £2.60, concs £2.95.*

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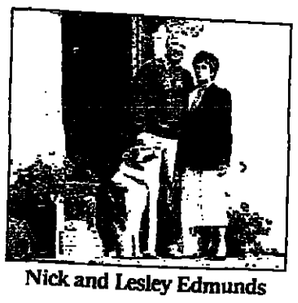
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A few costly mistakes can ruin the idyll of life in France, **Cheryl Taylor** reports

No room for hope at the inn



Nick and Lesley Edmunds



L'Hôtel Jouvin needed another £100,000 to complete the renovation but the banks would not extend the Edmunds' credit

A 17th-century inn surrounded by six stone farm buildings, converted into 21 *gites*, and set in five acres of Normandy countryside, a mile or so from a beach and the tourist honeypot of Mont St Michel — L'Hôtel Jouvin should have been a successful business.

But Nick Edmunds's dream faded. In debt to the bank for essential repairs and unable to borrow more money to complete the project, he is being forced to sell and has already reduced his price by more than £50,000 in order to do so. At FFr950,000 (about £110,000), he is unlikely to recoup his investment.

"We simply cannot afford to carry on," he says. "We love the place and can see the potential, but our capital has dried up, and life has become very difficult."

Five years ago, Mr Edmunds and his wife Lesley, from Kingsbridge in Devon, wanted a new challenge and a French education for their children, Thomas, then aged nine, and Zoe, 11.

"We wanted to get into the holiday lettings trade, and France seemed the ideal place," Mr Edmunds says. "Property prices are lower so you can buy more for your money. And the state schools in France are very good."

The couple sold their home and market-garden business in Devon and bought the derelict 300-year-old French inn and farm for £25,000, taking out a £100,000 loan from a French bank and another £20,000 in the UK to pay for the renovation work.

Converting the primitive farm buildings, without water, electricity or proper sanitation, proved more expensive than they had predicted. A small stream running through the property ruled out septic tank drainage, which would have cost about £6,000. Instead, the Edmunds had to put in an expensive *lagunage system* (a series of lakes) to cope with the effluent; this cost them more than £20,000.

"We put the work in the hands of a French architect. Although beautifully done, it was not cheap. We left instructions that the buildings should be renovated one at a time, so that we could let each one when completed; but the architect started on the whole complex."

The couple arrived in France to a £40,000 bill for work that they had not expected to be done.

Another mistake, which the Edmunds say ended up costing them more than £18,000, was to buy the property as a home, not as a business. "Had we bought the property as a French company, we would have been able to recover the value-added tax on the renovation work — amounting to about £18,000."

The old hotel has now been converted into a three-bedroomed house, split into two units; three other buildings containing another five *gites* are nearing completion. Mr Edmunds reckons £100,000 more is needed to finish the project.

"After spending every penny on the conversion, we are left with a complex we are unable to let, an expensive bank loan and a larger property than we need."

The Edmunds do not regard their venture as a failure, and intend to stay in France, "albeit in a smaller house," Mr Edmunds says. "We both enjoy the outdoor life and the children now speak the language fluently and are doing well at their French schools."

● *Northern France Properties, 25 Vasion Place, Fulham, SW6 (071-386 9826) is handling the sale of the L'Hôtel Jouvin village complex.*

KINGSBRIDGE 4 DEC 1993 GT. BRITAIN

SECOND HOME



THIS detached character house (above), in need of modernisation, is about half an hour's drive inland from the sea at Auray in southern Britanny, and can be yours for FFr537,100 (about £62,000). Allow about two hours for the drive to the ferry port at St Malo.

It has a living-room and a kitchen with exposed beams and a huge stone fireplace, two bedrooms with exposed stone walls and a large loft for conversion, and comes with half an acre of land and a barn.

Alternatively, for FFr950,000 (about £110,000), you can buy a detached period farmhouse in 2.5 acres of ornamental walled gardens and paddocks, situated near the market town of St Hilaire-du-Harcouet, about 40 minutes' drive from the beaches of Mont St Michel. The ferry ports of Caen (Ouistreham) and St Malo can be reached in just over an hour by car.

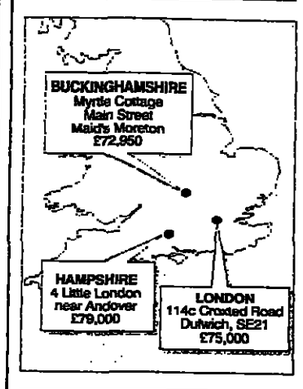
The property, approached by its own tree-lined drive, has been fully renovated, retains many original features and enjoys superb views over open countryside. It has a living-room with fireplace, kitchen and bathroom, three double bedrooms, games room and wine-cellar.

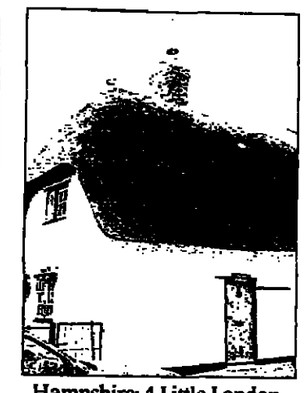
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London: 114c Croxted Road, Dulwich, SE21. First-floor conversion flat in good decorative order, close to Dulwich village. Two bedrooms, bathroom, living-room, new fitted kitchen/breakfast-room. Central heating. About £75,000 for a 96-year lease (Winkworth, 081-299 2722).

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Hampshire: 4 Little London, near Andover. Grade II listed detached thatched cottage, with front garden and rear patio area, situated in a hamlet, surrounded by woodlands. Two bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, kitchen. Garage. About £79,000 (Allen & Harris, 0264 366444).



Buckinghamshire: Myrtle Cottage, Main Street, Maids' Moreton. Renovated semi-detached thatched cottage, with south-facing rear garden, situated in a village not far from Buckingham. Two bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms (with inglenook fireplace and beamed ceilings), kitchen. Workshop. About £72,950 (Woolwich Property Services, 0280 812442).

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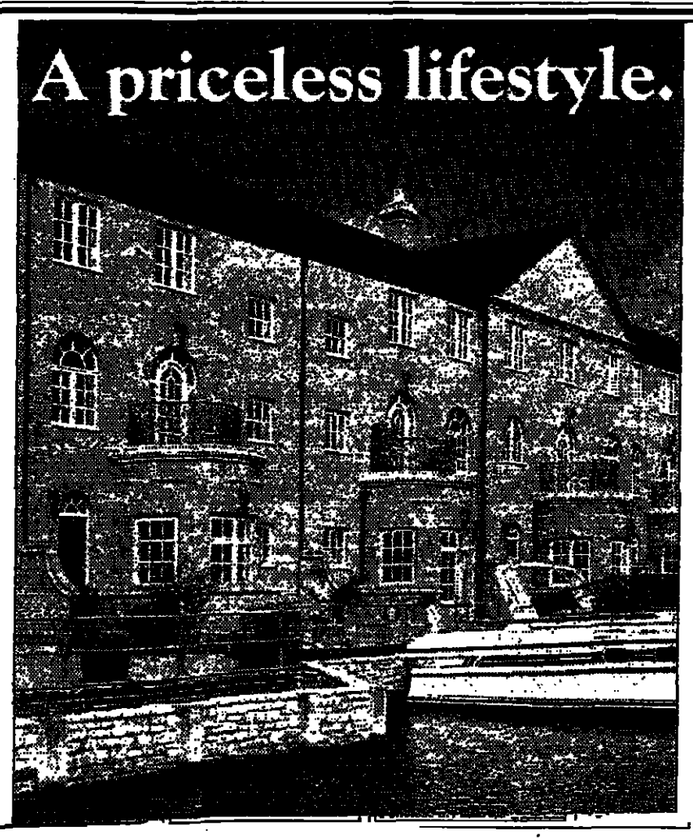
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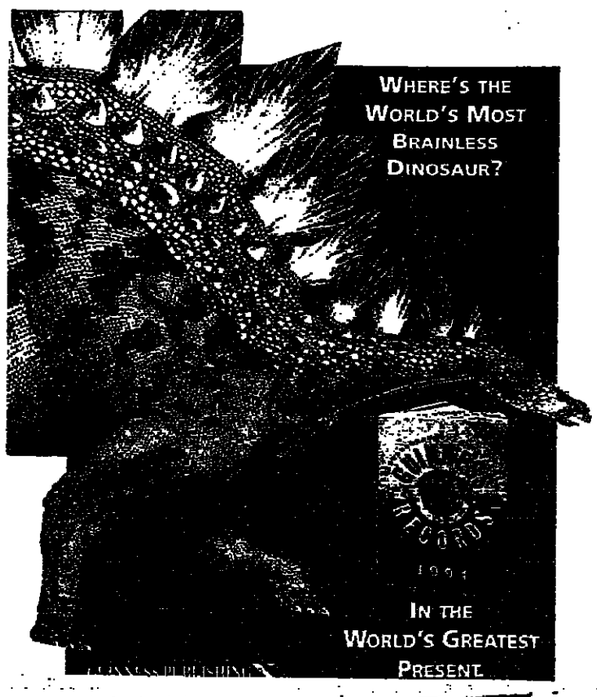


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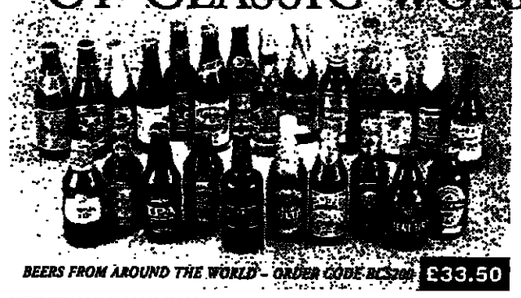
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BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: Panto time again. Described as "indescribably anarchic" and likely to be so with Ken Campbell directing Kate McKenzie and the alarming Chris Lynam.
BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (071-223 2223). Previews from Tues, 8pm. Opens Fri, 8pm. Then Tues-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 6pm. Until Dec 23.

CABARET. Jane Horrocks as Sally Bowles and Alan Cumming, fresh from *Hamlet* as the MC, dancing with death in the last days before Hitler.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (071-867 1150). Previews, 8pm. Opens Thurs, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

CAROUSEL: Tuneful Rodgers and Hammerstein with the familiar mixture of the perceptive and the maudlin. The sets are clever. Hal Fowler takes over the leading role of Billy Bigelow from Monday.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE GOOD-NATUR'D MAN. This Christmas production means that, with *She Stoops To Conquer*, both Goldsmith comedies are playing in the metropolis. This is the earlier of the two.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Previews tonight and Mon, 7.45pm. Opens Tues, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Mats Sat (not today), 4pm. Until Jan 29.

MACBETH Derek Jacobi and Cheryl Campbell play the hell-hound and his dame in Adrian Noble's new production.
Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Previews from Thurs, 7.15pm. Opens Dec 16, 7pm.



Cheryl Campbell rehearses for Noble's *Macbeth*

MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN: Hanif Kureishi's touring production of Brecht, with Ellie Haddington
National, (Cottesloe) South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Opens Mon, 7pm. Until Jan 15.

PIAF: Peter Hall directs Elaine Paige in Pam Gems's portrait of the great French *chanteuse*.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Previews from Wed, 8pm. Opens Dec 13, 7pm.

STUFFED AND MOUNTED: One week only of Kit and the Widow.
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until Dec 12.

WILDEST DREAMS: Alan Ayckbourn's first play at the RSC: a happy band of fantasy-game addicts get a scarier time than they bargained for.
The Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Previews from Wed, 7.15pm. Opens Dec 14, 7pm.

REGIONAL

BOLTON: Rob Pickavance plays Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*.
Octagon, Howell Croft South (0204-20661). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then at various times. Until Jan 8.

LEICESTER: Gavin Robertson, creator of *Thunderbirds FAB*, directs his vampire thriller *The Thirst*.
Haymarket Studio, Belgrave Gate (0533-539797). Previews from Thurs, 7.45pm. Until Jan 15.

MANCHESTER: This year's Christmas show is *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, adapted and directed by Bryan Elsley.
Contact, Oxford Road (061-274 4400). Today, 2pm and 7.30pm. Then at various times. Until Jan 15.

FILMS

NEW RELEASES

BOUND & GAGGED — A LOVE STORY (18): Muddled comic adventures in search of the characters' better selves. American independent misfire from writer-director Daniel Appleby.
Metro (071-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly** (071-437 3561)

THE HAWK (15): Is Helen Mirren's husband Lancashire's serial killer? Modest but powerful domestic thriller, from Peter Ransley's novel. David Hayman directs.
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

CURRENT

ALADDIN (U): Disney's brash Arabian cartoon; Robin Williams's Genie is fun. Directors, John Musker, Ron Clements.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426-915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

CB4 (18): Tamra Davis's dishevelled rap music spoof with a few bright ideas. Chris Rock, Allen Payne, Deezer D.
MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)

IP5 (15): Yves Montand teaches two urban louts the wonders of nature and love. Watcheble twaddle from Jean-Jacques Beineix.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) **Chelsea Cinema** (071-351 3742)

NAKED (18): Mike Leigh's excellent film about London's lost souls, with David Thewlis.
MGMs: Haymarket (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Notting Hill Coronet** (071-727 6705)

THE PIANO (15): Jane Campion's magnificent tale of repression and desire. With Holly Hunter.
Gate (071-727 4043) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Screen/Baker** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **Screen/Hill** (071-435 3366) **Warner** (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

THE REMAINS OF THE DAY (U): Life and lost chances of an English butler. Merchant Ivory's immaculate if chilly account of Kazuo Ishiguro's novel with Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson.
Curzons: Mayfair (071-465 8865) **West End** (071-439 4805) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (071-586 3057)

THE STRANGER (U): Wandering uncle returns to roost. Satyajit Ray's endearing, often funny, last film starring Utpal Dutt.
Renoir (071-837 8402)



Adventures in Motion Pictures offer a modern, alternative *Nutcracker* (see Dance)

MUSIC

OPERA/CLASSICAL

L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA. John Eliot Gardiner returns to the repertory with which he established his reputation, when he conducts a concert performance of Monteverdi's last opera. Sylvia McNair sings the title role in an outstanding cast which also includes Anne Sofie von Otter, Michael Chance and Catherine Bott. The performance, which is repeated next Saturday, is being recorded live by Deutsche Gramophon.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), Wed, 7pm; next Sat, 7pm.

THE TROJANS: Berlioz's huge operatic masterpiece is conducted by the composer's most authoritative contemporary interpreter, Sir Colin Davis. The London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus are joined by an international cast including Vladimir Bogachov, Jane Henschel, Ettore Kim, Gwynne Howell, Lucian D'Intino, and Robert Lloyd.
Barbican, Silk Street, London, EC2 (071-638 8891), today, Wed (part 1); tomorrow, Thurs, (part 2), 7.30pm.

ROCK

JAMES AND RADIOHEAD: Currently boasting the rudest song in the charts, "Laid", the newly folky James will have to work hard not to be upstaged by dynamic rockers Radiohead
Manchester, G-Mex (061-832 9000), today, 6.30pm.
Wolverhampton, Civic Centre (0902 312030), tomorrow, 7pm.
Derby, Assembly Rooms (0332 255800), Tues, 6.45pm.
Gloucester, Leisure Centre (0452 306788), Wed, 7.30pm.
London, Brixton Academy (071-924 9999), Thurs, 7pm.

DAVID SYLVIAN AND ROBERT FRIPP: The former Japan singer teams up with the one-time King Crimson guitarist to provide intricate soundscapes.
Albert Hall, London, SW7 (071-589 8212), today and tomorrow, 6.45pm.

JAZZ

ACKER BILK AND HIS PARAMOUNT JAZZ BAND: A welcome series of concerts from the clarinettist best remembered for "Stranger On the Shore".
Ronnie Scott's Club, Birmingham (021-643 4525), Wed to next Sat, 7.30pm

DANCE

NUTCRACKER. Birmingham Royal Ballet is the first large-scale company to weigh in with its version of Tchaikovsky's Christmas classic, superbly staged by Peter Wright. Grand and exciting.
Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Birmingham (021-622 7486), today, 2.30pm, 7.30pm. Mon to next Sat, 7.30pm, mats, Tues, Thurs, 2pm, next Sat, 2.30pm

NUTCRACKER. Temperature permitting, English National Ballet presents its fine production by Ben Stevenson, with charming designs by Desmond Heeley
Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham (0602 482626), Tues to next Sat, 7.30pm, mats, Wed, Fri, 2pm, next Sat, 2.30pm.

NUTCRACKER: Here it is, the alternative *Nutcracker*, courtesy of Adventures in Motion Pictures. Choreographer Matthew Bourne has sent up the original story, and updated each scene to embrace modern tastes. There is even a nod to Busby Berkeley
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1 (071-278 8916), Wed to next Sat, 7.30pm, mats, Thurs, next Sat, 2.30pm

EXHIBITIONS

LONDON

THE LONDON GROUP OPEN. The London group was founded as an independent exhibition association in 1913. This year it celebrates its 80th birthday with a bumper edition of its annual open exhibition, some 250 works selected from over a thousand entries. Somewhat conservative, but strong and firmly avoiding all "isms".
Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 4141). Mon-Sat, 10am-7.30pm, Sun, midday-7.30pm, opens Thurs to Jan 7.

LONDON AT HOME: The photographer Magda Segal has documented a cross-section of London's homelife, from a single man with two dogs to a family of 17 Hasidic Jews.
Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (071-600 3699). Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, midday-6pm, opens Tues to Feb 27.

NEW ART FROM CHINA: This show of post-1989 Chinese art includes 14 painters and five printmakers. The spirit of China after Tiananmen Square compounds cynicism, emotional bondage and escapism, embodied in a startling range of styles.
Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (071-629 5161). Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, Sat, 10am-12.30pm, opens Tues to January 29.

DRAWINGS FROM THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM: Since 1981 the Getty Museum has been putting together what is already one of the finest collections of drawings in the world. This lone show includes some 120 of them, ranging from Leonardo's *Three Sketches of a Child with a Lamb* to Rembrandt's *Woman with a Snake (Cleopatra)*
Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438). Daily 10am-6pm, until Jan 23. Sponsored by *The Times*

REGIONAL

CANALETTO AND ENGLAND The artist worked in Italy for British patrons, and also spent nine years in this country between 1746 and 1755. This large show of paintings and drawings concentrates on these British connections.
Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square (021-235 1966). Daily, 10am-8pm (last admission 5.30pm), until January 9

BOOKING

STEPHANE GRAPPELLI AND STANLEY BLACK OBE. The fabulous jazz violinist and the celebrated pianist/composer are giving a rare concert performance in celebration of two birthday events: Grappelli's own 86th and the 40th of Ravenswood, an independent charity offering training, education and residential care for people with learning disabilities. Also available are a limited number of tickets which include a champagne reception and dinner with Stephane Grappelli (details from Joanne Richmond, Ravenswood, 081-905 5557).
Barbican, Silk Street, London, EC2 (071-638 8891). Jan 24, 7.30pm. Now booking.

NEW VIDEOS

THE ALIEN TRILOGY COLLECTOR'S BOX (FoxVideo, 18): All the horror and gore you could possibly want: three films, trailers, plus interviews, out-takes, and a "making of" documentary.

ALIVE (CIC, 15). A terrific plane crash, then this tasteful true story of survival and cannibalism in the Andes rolls slowly downhill. Frank Marshall directs Ethan Hawke and Vincent Spano. 1993.

CHAIN OF DESIRE (Mainline, 18): Smart sexual escapades across New York, inspired by *La Ronde*, with a hip cast to match (Seymour Cassel, Assumpta Serna, Elias Koteas). Temistocles Lopez directs. 1992.

CRUSH (Tartan, 15): Impressive, jolting New Zealand fable about sexual power games from first-time director Alison Maclean; like a Jane Bowles story put on film. 1992.

Film: Geoff Brown; **Theatre:** Jeremy Kingston; **Classical Music and Opera:** Gwen Hughes; **Rock and Jazz:** Stephanie Osborne; **Dance:** Debra Craine; **Exhibitions:** John Russell Taylor; **New Videos:** Geoff Brown; **Bookings:** Kris Anderson

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *18*

BAWBEE

(b) A Scottish small copper coin or half-penny first issued in 1541, and struck again by Charles II and William and Mary for use in Scotland at Scottish values. The word is probably derived from a mint-master of that time, the laird of Sillebawby.

PUSULATUM

(a) In the late fourth century AD, when the Roman Empire was declining towards its fall, and the coinage was devalued, the silver content and quality of eg Siliquae was improved. Good coins of this type were struck by Honorius et al. Quality was guaranteed in the Mint signature in the exergue (part on the reverse of a coin, below the main device) thus: MDPS = Mediolanum (Milan) Pusulatum (pure silver) = a pure silver coin struck at Milan.

COB

(c) A Spanish American dollar, crude pieces "struck from a bar", *cabo de barra*, anglicised as *cob*, in general use for trade, like many other coins. When the battleship HMS Association struck the Gilstone Ledge (Scillies) on the night of 22 October 1707, all hands (680) men, including the fleet commander, Admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovell, were lost. Among the coins and artefacts recently recovered were many cob dollars, as well as English gold and silver, French and Portuguese gold, and ducatoons from the Netherlands and United Provinces — proof of the universality of coin exchange at the time.

RIDER

(a) A large silver coin from the United Provinces, the precursor of modern Holland. Each province, eg West Friesland, Gelderland, Overijseel and so on, struck its own Riders. All had a mailed horseman on the reverse, which gave the coin its name, and a common reverse inscription: *Res parvae crescunt concordia.*

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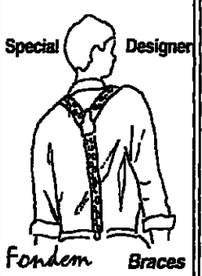
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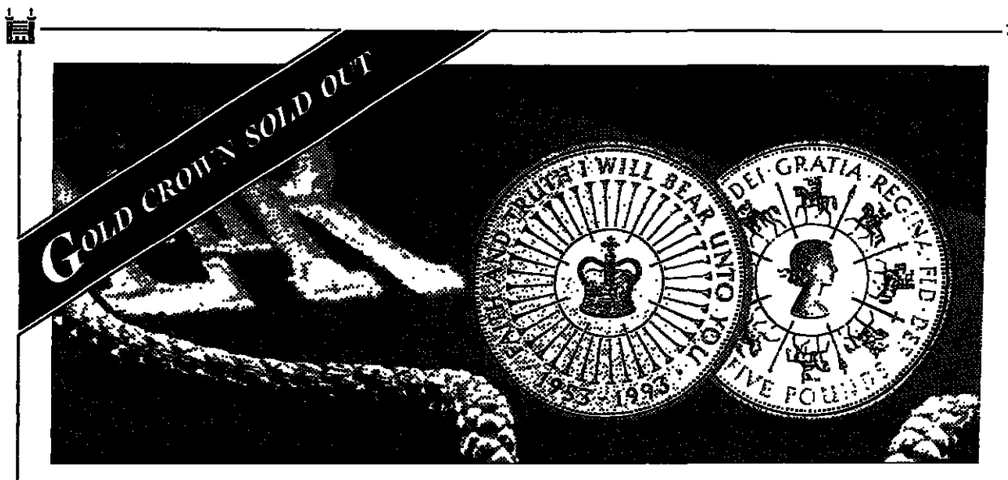
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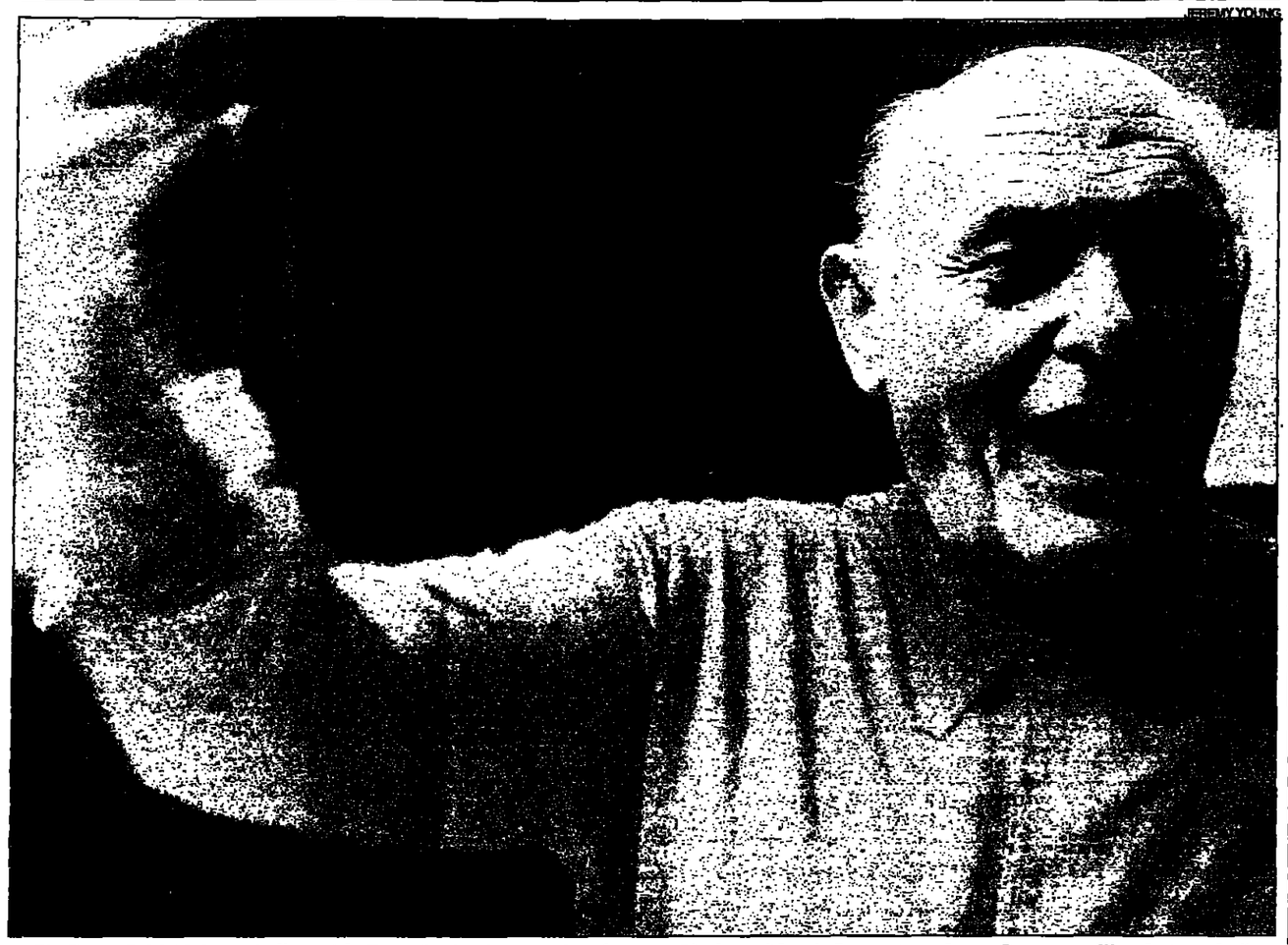
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Richard Morrison profiles the great conductor Sir Georg Solti, this month's CD Direct choice



Sir Georg Solti: "I do not believe, *à la* Furtwängler, in repeating the same 30 pieces. Nor do I want to make performances like photocopies"

Top score for charisma

What is it that the cricket commentators say? A great batsman makes his own luck. Peculiar though it may seem, that phrase always reminds me of Sir Georg Solti — who has done many splendid things in his 81 years but never stroked the leather around Lord's.

Cynics may point to the conductor's happy knack of being in the right place at the right time. He grew up in the Budapest of Bartók and Kodaly, and studied with both. In his early twenties he was able to spend much time at the feet of Toscanini, as perfect an education as a young conductor could desire.

As an émigré Hungarian, he was ideally placed to take over the Bavarian State Opera in 1945, when the occupying American army was determined that the job should go to a proven non-Nazi. Then he struck up an alliance with the Decca Record Company just as it was starting to experiment with a new-fangled idea called stereo. Over the course of 45 years and a few hundred recordings (including the first complete version of Wagner's *Ring* on disc) Solti and Decca grew great together.

THE TIMES CD DIRECT

But Solti was not lucky. He simply possessed the kind of galvanising energy that made things happen for him. You have only to attend his rehearsals, and marvel at the unique mixture of lightning wit, verbal battering, iron-willed determination and melting charm — all delivered in that famous corkscrew of an accent — to be aware that this is a musical whirlwind personified.

Shouldn't orchestras hate this self-assertive, pugilistic figure? Well, players grumble about his shouting, his cryptic baton movements, the impenetrable gutteral instructions which he tends to grunt out in the loudest parts of the music. And yet they revere him. He is an old-fashioned musical giant — perhaps the last giant. Today, conductors are neater, easier-going, more like bureaucrats than leaders. Solti could walk into a crowded room and dominate it without saying a word. Which is exactly what a conductor is paid to do.

The energy spills into everything around him. During his years at its helm in the Sixties, Covent Garden buzzed. Then, in 1971, he took charge of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and transformed it into a powerhouse after his own image: bristling, fiery, charismatic.

His appetite for music, and curiosity about it, is gargantuan. Though primarily associated with the late Romantic repertoire, he misses few opportunities to inflict GBH on the fashionable modern doctrine of specialisation. In recent years, for instance, he has premiered new scores (notably from Sir Michael Tippett), and conducted 18th-century music with such ebullience that even the ranks of purists could scarce forbear to cheer. "I have never believed, *à la* Furtwängler, that you keep on repeating the same 30 pieces," he told *The Times*. "Nor do I want to make performances like photocopies. Of course, the price is high; I work harder than any other conductor because I know my scores."

A charismatic conductor does not always produce vivacious performances. One thinks of Herbert von Karajan's later recordings — smooth and characterless as a billiard table. But not a single bar of a Solti performance goes by without his imprint. To call him a showman would imply that he was creating effects he didn't believe in. Rather, he is a glorious extrovert: his generosity of emotion is allied to an unshakable conviction as to "how the music should go".

The records chosen here reflect his diversity and tireless spirit. He was arguably the first foreign-born conductor to grasp the essence of Elgar, and this Elgar recording is marvellously rich in nuance and passion. His *Messiah* is as fruity as a plum pudding: a heart-warming antidote to the prim and proper modern way with George Frideric. In Strauss he is unrivalled: and his account of Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique" Symphony wrings every drop of emotion from this most eloquent of suicide notes. That Solti — who affirms the joy of living with every word and deed — can so perfectly empathise with this manic-depressive masterpiece, only demonstrates once again his true stature: a colossus of post-war music-making.

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PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

Festive, but not feisty

DANCE

The Nutcracker
Derngate, Northampton

From Perm in the Urals to Northampton in the east Midlands is a long way to come just to dance *The Nutcracker*, but the ballet is what audiences are supposed to want at this time of year, and the company from the Tchaikovsky Theatre was fortunately available when the Derngate's planned production from France was lost because Ballet du Nord fell out with its artistic director.

The Perm *Nutcracker*, staged by Nikolai Boyarchikov, incorporates some dances from Vassili Vainonen's more famous version. On this showing (we have not seen any of his other works in Britain) Boyarchikov's choreography is conventional and sometimes creaky.

Like most Russian producers of the classics, he tends to avoid mime or acting, so much of the story has to be taken for granted. The opening party was perfunctory (greetings and byplay at a minimum; no presentation of Christmas gifts); the battle against the mice almost derisively unbelligerent.

Luckily, audiences are prepared to put up with a lot for the sake of Tchaikovsky's music, even when, as here, it is played over loudspeakers from an unattributed and often strident recording.

The scenery and costumes (again without any programme credit for the designer) are apt enough, but only the Napoleonic hats for the mice soldiers show a flash of imagination, and the total effect is of good taste but dull.

Back in the 1970s, the Perm Ballet won a high reputation for the quality of its dancing, and over the years quite a few graduates from its school have moved to Moscow or St Petersburg. The general level of performing remains commendable, but in the opening cast only Elena Kulagina as Masha, the heroine, really sparkled. She has the looks, the style and the charm for this role.

If the other soloists, even Vitaly Poleshchuk, her tall, slender prince, do not have the same impact, the fault must lie at least partly with Boyarchikov's production, which goes in for repeating a few standard steps, rather than characterisation.

The company is not large (somewhere between our Northern and English National companies, I would guess) unless it has sent only a contingent of its full strength, but a bigger ensemble would have been out of place, and the effect is lively enough. But if only we could have seen these dancers do something more original.

JOHN PERCIVAL

Enlightening conductor

CONCERTS

LPO / Sawallisch
Festival Hall

Put a conductor like Wolfgang Sawallisch together with an orchestra like the London Philharmonic and you have perhaps even a better combination than Sawallisch and his beloved Bavarian State Opera.

The relationship has had no chance to become too cosy, as had sometimes been the suspicion in Munich. He clearly enjoyed himself in this concert, just as by all accounts he is relishing, at 70, the new challenge of the music directorship in Philadelphia.

One of the real aristocrats of his profession, he always seems to bring out the most refined qualities of his players. But his programme on Monday night showed that a snob he is not.

If it is to be swallowed hook, line and kitchen sink, a work like Richard Strauss's *Sinfonia Domestica* needs something of a down-to-earth approach. Ennoble the slow movement too much, for instance, and the music could easily become self-caricature rather than self-portraiture. Then there is the work's notorious extended final cadence climax, surely about as far over the top as it is possible to go.

How else, though, do you crown the breathtaking display of contrapuntal energy that comes before it, where specific programmatic links are for once, mercifully, set aside? The LPO's horns and trombones coped heroically here, charging at the obstacle course Strauss sets them with joyful abandon.

When this work is given with such evident affection, with care for its shape and its textures, and with honesty, it is difficult to argue for proscription simply on the grounds of bad taste.

The strings took on a sheen that I had not noticed even in this orchestra before, while the brass sounded rounded rather than brash, and the woodwind choir blended with considerable refinement — all qualities one might expect from a top German orchestra, in fact.

There was not quite the same level of intensity in the work that opened the concert, the now unfashionable Werner Egk's *French Suite after Rameau*. Composed in 1949, this sequence of five character pieces — neither arrangement nor pastiche of the earlier composer's work, but embeddings of fragments and reminiscences within Egk's own designs — is of its time, and of the neo-classical lineage of Weill rather than Schoenberg.

I particularly liked the elegant slow movement, "Les tendres Plaintes", although Egk captured vividly the fiery character of the Venetian girl in "Venitienne" and the mighty wind in "Les Tourbillons", both of which showed the LPO at its crispest.

Between these works came Bruch's First Violin Concerto, given a secure but somewhat routine performance by soloist Leonidas Kavakos.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Mix and match

Kronos Quartet
Festival Hall

The Kronos Quartet, light show and sound deck were joined by a fourth element on Wednesday: virtuoso kora player, drummer and composer, Foday Musa Suso. His *Kafu Julo (Song for a Crowd)* was one of four new works specially written for the quartet and featuring in their current tour, which moved on to Birmingham and Newcastle this weekend.

Suso did not, in fact, devote himself to the kora. Instead, he brought with him from his native village in the Gambia a calimba (the small wooden box with metal keys common throughout Africa) and the dousongoni, a six-string bass harp lute played by the Mandingo hunter musicians of Mali and Guinea in West Africa.

This is Suso's fourth piece for Kronos, and he has a sure ear for matching resonances. The dousongoni went into oblique partnership with the cello, providing a slowly changing bass line to the cello's ostinato figures. The kora, a 21-string instrument, provided rhythmic figures and improvisation, as did some rather less testing writing for the other three strings of the quartet. Suso's own singing voice, gentle and serene, seemed both to draw the players inward to each other, and to beckon the audience in to the naive intimacy of the music-making.

This balmy piece of minimalism was something of a relief after the unrelenting 25-minute single movement of Louis Andriessen's *Facing Death*. This, inspired by Miles Davis's *Autobiography*, was Charlie Parker-style bebop for string quartet, and doubtless every bit as draining to play as it was to listen to. This constantly animated and fitfully contrapuntal high tempo work really does rage against the dying of the light.

Nothing — apart from the presence of the four players themselves — is to be taken for granted at a Kronos concert, and this one, in addition to new works from Romania and Armenia, also featured John Oswald's *Mach*. This "audioquoting" work blasts recorded fragments of heavy rock over the live playing of a string quartet who appear to be either miming or tuning up for most of the time, as both time and place is dislocated with deliberately audacious, sometimes disarming effect.

HILARY FINCH

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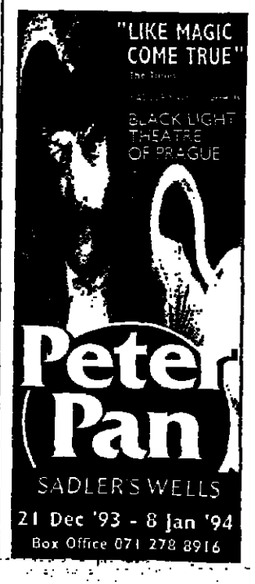
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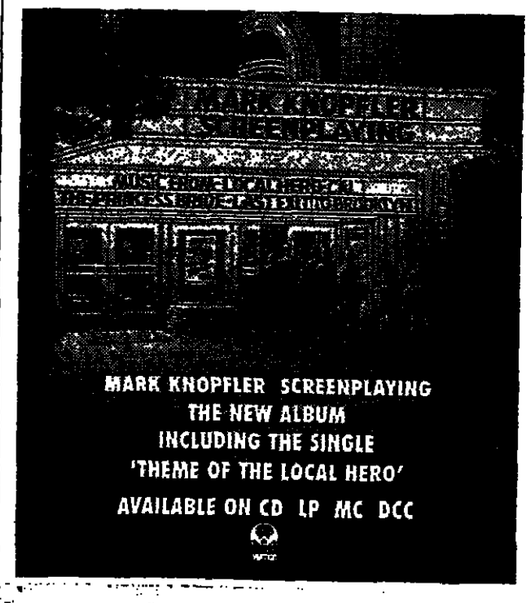
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ALBINONI Adagio; PACHELBEL Canon
FRANCK Panis Angelicus; CLARKE Trumpet Voluntary
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BACH *Christmas Oratorio* Opening Chorus
Air on a G String; Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring
HANDEL Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
Messiah: For Unto Us a Child is Born & Worthy is the Lamb; Ombra Mai Fu (Handel's Largo)
ADAM The Holy City; GOUNOD Ave Maria
FRANCK Panis Angelicus; CLARKE Trumpet Suite
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Monday 6 Dec 7.30 pm	THE MANNHEIM WIND ENSEMBLE Joy Farrall director, Lucy Shelton sop. Mozart: Adagio in C; Divertimenti in B flat Nos 3 & 4; Adagio in B flat K411; Romanze; Trumpeter; Julian Anderson: New work (world prem); Stravinsky: Danzas de Chat; 3 solo clar pieces; Elegy for JFC £11, £9, £7, £5 Neil Chalkley Concert Promotions
Tuesday 7 Dec 1.05 pm NB: starting time	BORREL QUARTET Jane Atkins viola Mozart: String Quintet in B flat K.174; Prokofiev: String Quartet in F Op.92; Shostakovich: Elegy; Polka for String Quartet £3 (concs £1) YCAT
Tuesday 7 Dec 7.30 pm	PETER HILL piano Messiaen: Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant Jesus 6.30 pm: Pre-concert talk by Peter Hill (free to ticket holders) £10, £9, £8, £4
Wednesday 8 Dec 7.30 pm	ELIZABETH CONNELL soprano, EUGENE ASTI piano Song Recital Series. BI PRAISE OF WOMEN. Songs by Honegger, Fauré, Chaminade, Woodforde-Finden, Hensel, Mendelssohn, A & G Mahler, C & R Schumann, Brahms, Wolf, Strauss, del Riego, Lehmann & White. £15.00, £12.50, £10.00, £7.50 Merle Mgt.
Thursday 9 Dec 7.30 pm	JAMES LISNEY piano Tchaikowsky: The Seasons Op.37b Rakhmaninov: Variations on a Theme of Corelli Op.42 and transcriptions of Bach and Kreisler £8 (concs £6)
Friday 10 Dec 7.30 pm	GABOR TAKACS-NAGY violin, ALEXANDER BAILLIE cello, WU HAN piano. Beethoven: Trio in E flat Op.1 No.1; Brahms: Trio in B Op.8 Dvorak: Trio in E minor Op.90 *Dumky* £12, £10, £8, £6 Tim Ballemore Management
Saturday 11 Dec 7.30 pm	LEIF OVE ANDSNES piano, International Piano Season. Grieg: 4 Lyric Pieces from Op.54 Schumann: Fantasie in C Op.17; Nilposhi: En Vers Debussy: Estampes; Liszt: Andante lacrimoso; Ballade No.2 £15.00, £12.50, £10.00, £7.50 IMG Artists Europe

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Günther Herbig



Jane Glover

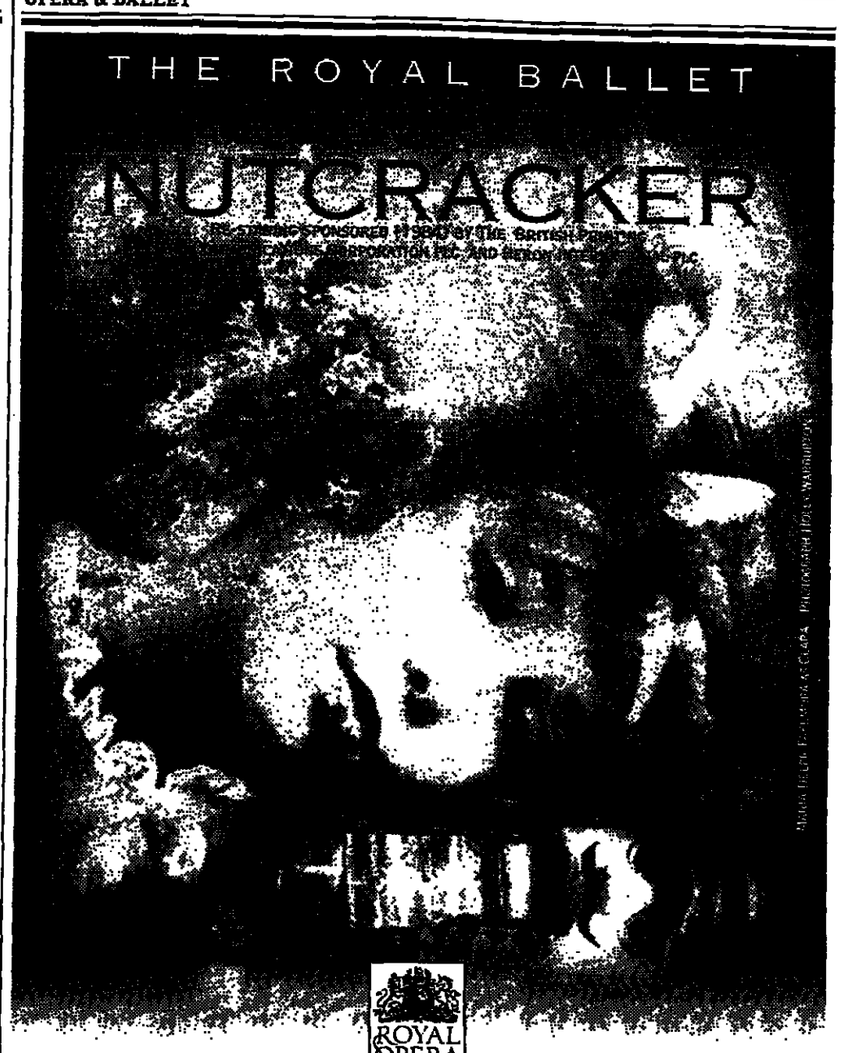
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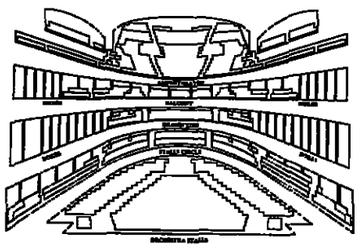
Sunday 5 December 7.30pm	Wednesday 8 December 7.30pm
Schubert Symphony No.8 'Unfinished'	Handel Messiah
Rachmaninov Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini	Conductor Jane Glover
Brahms Symphony No.2	Soloists Carol Smith Catherine Wyn-Rogers Adrian Thompson David Wilson-Johnson
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Mon 6 Dec 7.30	A CELEBRATION FOR CHRISTMAS. Ernest Read Symph Orch, Peter Stark, Noel Long (conds). Prog inc. Handel Excerpts Royal Fireworks; Dukas The Sorcerer's Apprentice and carols for choir & audience. £15, £12, £9.50, £8.50, £4.50 ERMA
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Wed 8 Dec 7.30	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Jane Glover (cond) C Smith, C Wyn-Rogers, A Thompson, D Wilson-Johnson, C Harper, Huddersfield Choral Soty. Handel/Mozart Messiah. Spons: Sedgwick Noble Lowndes. £27, £21, £16, £10, £5 *RPO Ltd
Thu 9 Dec 7.30	PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Yevgeny Svetlanov (cond) Peter Donohoe (pno) Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No.2; Tchaikovsky Symphony No.6 (Pathétique) Spons: PHH Allstar. £22, £17, £10, £5, £4 (ONLY) *Philharmonia Ltd
Fri 10 Dec 7.30	BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Andrew Davis (cond) Thomas Allen (bone) BBC Symphony Chorus. Elgar Introduction & Allegro, Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols; Holst The Planets. £5, £4 unreserved BBC Radio 3 Pre

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3pm 6 Dec 2.00	PIOTR ANDERSZEWSKI Bach Overture in the French style; Webern Variations, Op.27; Chopin Three Mazurkas, Op.56; Schumann Faschingsschwank aus Wien Op.26 £9, £4 Harold Holt Ltd/*SBC
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Wed 8 Sat 11 Dec 7.00	MONTEVERDI: L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA (concert perf in Italian) John Eliot Gardiner (cond) English Baroque Soloists, cast inc. Sylvia McNair, Anne Sofie von Otter, Michael Chance. RETURNS ONLY *Monteverdi Choir & Orch Ltd

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A fowl curse on the feathered farmyard invaders

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

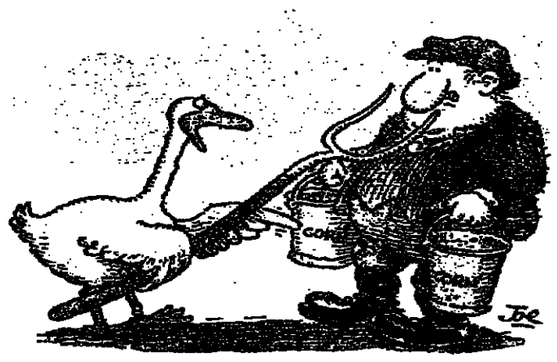


I do not recall ever suggesting that this farm was open house to anything that cared to call; but several creatures seem to think it is some kind of hostel for nature's waifs, to be dropped in on at the slightest excuse.

About a year ago I was checking the ewes and saw what I thought to be an old plastic bag lying in the hedge. Flash, the sheepdog, thought differently. The instant he spotted it, he was off with the speed at which he would only move if he thought that at the end of his journey there was something alive, and it was his duty to be in charge of it. He was right: it was a swan. I assumed it to be injured, tired or dying. Fading or not, it was more than a match for Flash, at whom it hissed like a pressure cooker. He backed off, so did I. As darkness fell, the swan made its way towards the house and settled down in front of the car, leaving me to decide if it was begging for a lift or euthanasia. I gave it a hunk of bread and went to bed. The next morning it was gone.

That sort of transient visitor I can cope with, but recent callers have been less welcome. I honestly had no intention of owning geese, but I seem to have a pair strutting around the farm as if they own the place. Come to think of it, they might as well, for if it comes to a territorial dispute I am not going to confront them. At the tender age of three, I can just remember being heavily pecked by my great-aunt's gander: geese and I have never got on since. They come at me, heads high, eyes wide, mouths open ready to peck and hiss and squawk like bagpipers employed by the armies of old to frighten the enemy. I am not going over the top to face them, and as soon as they make any moves towards the house, I shall have to move out. I am told that an attacking goose can be easily repelled with a pitchfork (without hurting the goose in any way) but I am not certain of the precise technique. I think you pin them to a fence and call for help but I am reluctant to try it, for there are enough people who think the balance of my mind is disturbed and if I charge around with a pitchfork, screaming, it will only confirm their worst suspicions.

Interestingly, nobody has called to ask for them back. It is highly possible that this is the umpteenth farm on which this pair of geese have caused the farmer to live in terror. Their technique is probably



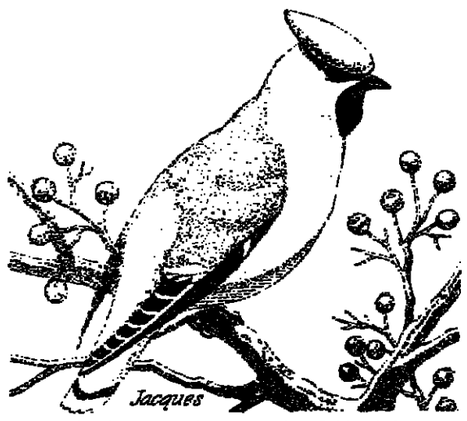
to reduce the poor chap to such a quivering heap that he starts imagining swans lying in front of his car. Having completely disturbed the balance of his mind, they move on. But at least they add to the landscape, keep the orchard grazed, and warn me of visitors. I have arrived at an accommodation whereby they get slung a handful of corn when I feed the hens in return for which they are allowed to hiss at me, but not attack.

Alas, I can arrive at no negotiated settlement with the guineafowl. These noisy, unattractive, ungainly but cunning birds escaped from a nearby farm, where they were being fattened for the pot. Sensing sanctuary, they headed our way, where they have lodged for a year now. I do everything in my power to make them unwelcome but they will not go away. I have shooed them, chased them, refused to feed them, but they roost every night in the trees overlooking the yard and as soon as I bring out the feed-buckets, they swoop to the troughs and steal as much food as the ewes manage to eat. In the summer they are an even greater nuisance, for they have a dawn chorus which is always at 3am irrespective of when the sun rises, and sounds like the rasping of a thousand blunt saws against tough lumps of oak. I have had enough of nights of ruined summer sleep, and sheep robbed from their own troughs.

We have tried to shoot them but with no success. I am no shot and do not bear arms, but several chaps round here do and at my request they have turned up with camouflage jackets, Land-Rovers and enough guns to end an embassy siege. So far, they have got a miserable two of the dozen.

The trouble is, these birds are fiendishly cunning. In the summer, we noticed that they gathered every evening at 5pm round the oat bin. We observed them from Monday till Thursday and they were as regular in their ways as the chiming of the clock. The guns arrived on Friday at 4.30pm, ready for the kill. Not one single guineafowl met its appointment with fate. How did they know? What kind of sense is it that tells them this gutful of oats will be their last? Could it be the geese? Are the geese signalling to them? Or is that what they want me to believe, so that I go mad and abandon the farm to the birds?

Feather report



The waxwing is among the most colourful birds in Europe

Visitors on the way

Those who live in Scotland or northeast England have every chance of seeing some waxwings in their gardens this winter. Last weekend a small party of them was feeding in a park in the middle of Aberdeen.

If they do favour you with a visit, you will easily identify them. They are among the most colourful birds in Europe, with a flame-like orange crest, a black eyestripe and bib, a rusty-looking body, a scarlet wing-tip like a blob of sealing wax, and a yellow bar at the end of the tail. They are about as big as a starling, and with their triangular wings they look like starlings when they are flying.

They are very tame, and are most likely to be seen in a hawthorn tree or a cotoneaster bush, hanging upside down to get at the berries. In Lapland and Siberia, where they breed in high summer, they feed mainly on mosquitoes, and in Britain in winter they can sometimes be seen flycatching from a telephone wire.

They have a long way to come from the swamps and pinewoods of the north, but a few drift each year as far as southern England. In some years, there is an explosion of them across Europe, with thousands coming here. There was such an irruption in the winter of 1965-66.

The reason for these invasions is now reasonably well understood. If there is a very warm summer in the Arctic, more young waxwings fledge successfully, and at the same time more rowan trees fruit well across the northern forests. The rowan berries are what help them through the winter, so survival rates are high, and the following year there is a larger breeding population, with even more young birds produced.

But in the second autumn, with exceptional numbers of waxwings now in search of rowan berries, the trees are tired and do not fruit so well. So off go the waxwings in flocks to western and southern Europe, hoping to find food.

Another uncommon bird to look out for in the next few months is the great grey shrike. It is a rather wild, shy bird, but sometimes quite easy to see, because it sits like a small magpie on top of a bush, looking for prey.

Great grey shrikes breed over much of the continent, but the ones that come here seem to be mainly Swedish birds. They have wintry plumage, with a frosty grey body, a black eyestripe, black wings, and a long black tail.

Their beaks are hooked, and they swoop down on passing field-mice and voles, and sometimes on small birds such as tits and linnets. Sometimes they make a larder, impaling their victims on thorns or on a barbed wire fence. They guard their territories fiercely, and do not hesitate to fly at a sparrow-hawk or kestrel that comes near.

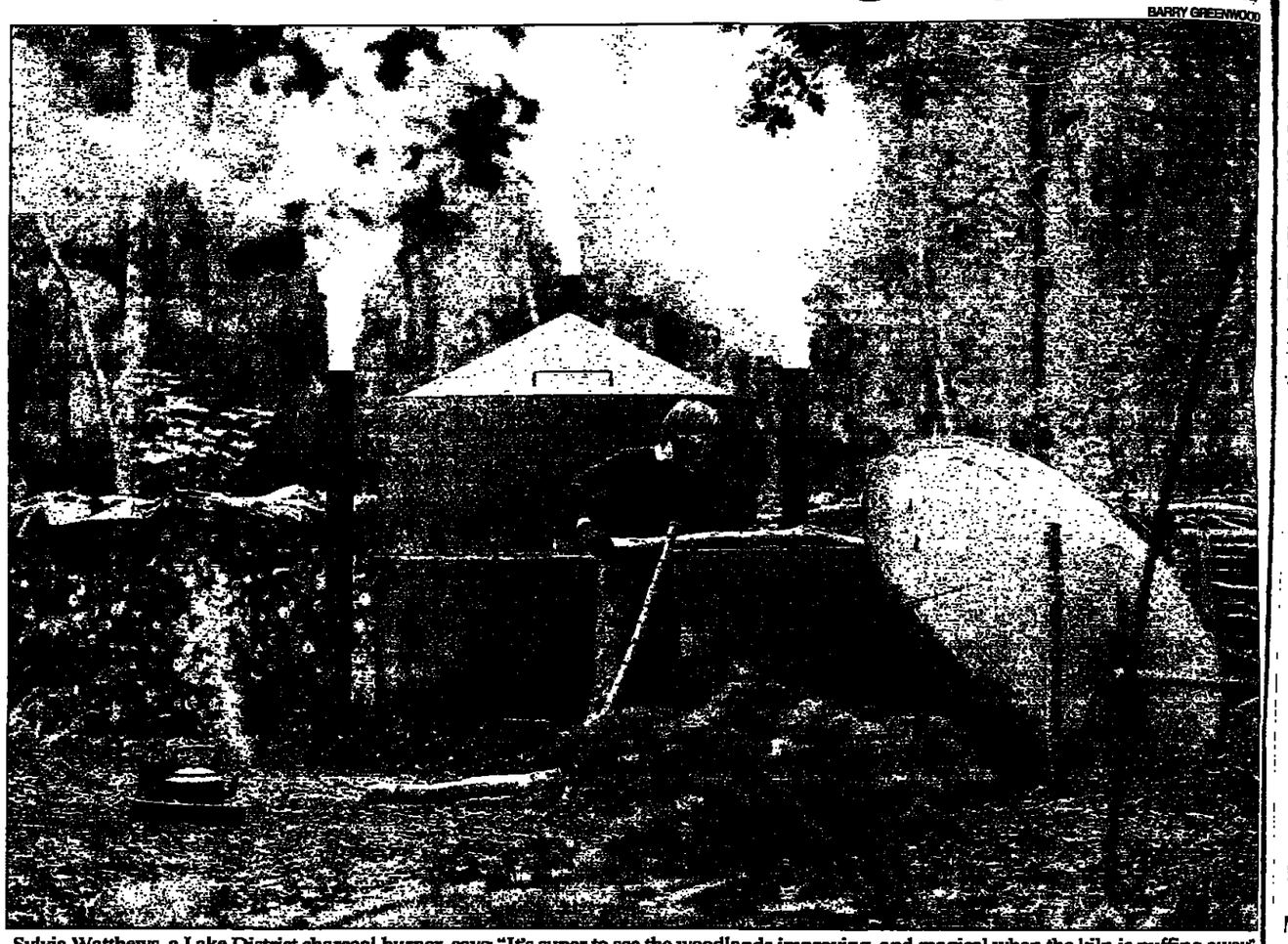
DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — watch out for overwintering blackcaps, particularly in gardens. Twitchers — hoopoe at Romsey, Hampshire; ferruginous duck at Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 36p a minute cheap rate, 45p at all other times.*

The kilns and birds sing again

In the first of a three-part series on the uses of coppices, Christian Dymond reports on the charcoal-burners

BARRY GREENWOOD



Sylvia Watthews, a Lake District charcoal-burner, says: "It's super to see the woodlands improving, and magical when the kiln is puffing away"

Coke did for charcoal, they say in south Cumbria. A century ago, about 600 charcoal-burners worked the woods around Windermere, Coniston Water and further south, feeding the iron foundaries in the Furness peninsula. Then the furnaces turned to coke for smelting and by the 1930s the need for charcoal was almost over.

Except for the sound of a couple of burners in the 1940s and 1950s, and two men who have been cutting the timber for many years, the coppice woods of the area fell silent, the trees snuffling out the light, the flowers and much of the wildlife.

Then, like some creature thought extinct, the charcoal-burners returned. One came to these parts in 1986, another started a short time later. Three more have set up this year, while another eight prospective burners have joined the North West England Charcoal Producers' Association, formed to promote the use of Lake District charcoal, help those wanting to get into the charcoal business, and encourage the management of broad-leaved woods.

"It has been wonderful to see the charcoal-burners coming back," says Bill Hogarth, who has coppiced these woods for 45 years, chopping the trunks back to their stools and then cutting the trees which sprout from those stumps every six to 25 years, depending on the species.

He now has 67 different outlets for the wood he gathers, including fishing net stakes, besoms, steeplechase hurdles, hedging stakes, rustic furniture, oak bark for tanning leather, and charcoal.

"Because the woods have been derelict for so long, much of the timber is ideal for charcoal-burning," Mr Hogarth says. So the more woods that are coppiced, the better managed they become.

"When you cut the wood and let the light into the clearing you get this terrific burst of new life, a rejuvenation of wild flowers, insects, birds and small mammals," says Walter Lloyd, who in 1986 was the first charcoal-burner in south Cumbria for 30 years.

A few months ago, Mr Lloyd sold his business to Simon Grey, a former journalist and clothes importer, and self-confessed "tree fanatic". Mr Grey uses four metal kilns in different locations. Each is about 8ft in diameter and 3ft high. When he stacks a kiln, he stands a piece of wood, a "motty peg", upright in the middle and around it lays pieces of oak, alder or birch. When the kiln is full, he removes the peg and lights the pile in the space that is left. Pipes laid on the ground underneath the kiln draw air into the centre, and four chimneys take the smoke out. "Once the lid is on it's a remarkably controlled environment," he says.

Even then, things can go wrong: air backing down a chimney, for instance, could turn the prospective charcoal to ash. So Mr Grey checks the kiln every two hours and, as he also burns overnight, that means disturbed sleep.

Burn is perhaps a misnomer for the operation: in fact, the wood is cooked, and the secret of the cooking is in the smoke. "Once the heat has driven off the moisture and the smoke gets thinner, you know it's almost ready," says Sylvia Watthews, who works two double-decker kilns a few miles from Mr Grey.

Like Mr Grey, Ms Watthews has been burning for only a few months, after 15 years with the Lake District National Park authority, and has no illusions about the job.

"It's super to see the woodlands improving, and magical when the kiln is puffing away," she says, "but there's a lot of hard work and we're dependent on the weather." Bad summers can mean fewer people having barbecues, and sometimes less demand from restaurants, despite the charcoal-burners' conviction that their product is easy to light and gives "hot" burning.

All this activity in lakeland is being closely followed by the Lincolnshire-based Coppice Association, which represents nearly 200 coppice workers in England and Wales, half of them charcoal-burners. The association is already marketing a starter kit for charcoal-burners and is hoping to set up 15 regional charcoal-producing co-operatives in the UK.

This is an idea which appeals to Richard Pow, organiser of the North West England Charcoal Producers' Association and co-organiser of three seminars on charcoal-burning held last month.

"There could be advantages in bringing people together for marketing," Mr Pow says, adding that Britain imports about 50,000 tons of charcoal a year — more than 90 per cent of the charcoal used.

The idea of joint marketing may need all Mr Pow's persuasion. Charcoal-burning in south Cumbria, at least, seems a singular occupation. "What we've done, we've always done on our own," says Bill Airey, who has worked in the woods all his life and produced charcoal for the past six years.

But one thing they are agreed on: charcoal-burning is bringing new life to some of the 20,000 acres of broad-leaved woodlands in south Cumbria. The birds, like the kilns, are singing again.

● *Coppice Association, 077 885 470; secretary, Richard Edwards.*

Next week: Growing willows for fuel

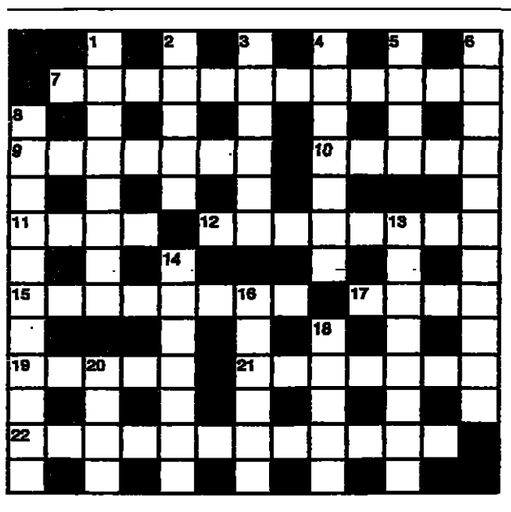
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 30

ACROSS

7 Gershwin opera (5,3,4)
9 Kneecap (7)
10 Kinkajou (5)
11 Secluded corner (4)
12 Appropriate to the time of year (8)
15 Go where one shouldn't (8)
17 Fortune (4)
19 Indian currency (5)
21 Wireless pioneer (7)
22 Put up with unpleasant consequences (4,3,5)

DOWN

1 One lightens a ship (8)
2 Nimble (5)
3 Barbarian (6)
4 Fat (7)
5 Liquefy (4)
6 Touchstone play (2,3,4,2)
8 Extravagant person (11)
13 Mild personality problem (8)
14 In ample quantity (7)
16 Keep bubbling (6)
18 Criminal deception (5)
20 Formal agreement (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 29

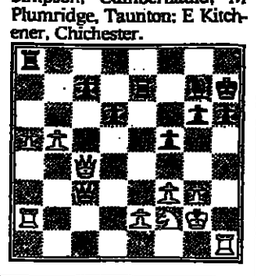
ACROSS: 7 Poke 8 Near miss 9 Oppose 10 Sparse 11 List 12 Tearaway 15 Pectoral 17 Buff 18 Starch 21 Clutch 22 Passport 23 Slew

DOWN: 1 Porpoise 2 Report 3 Investor 4 Cats 5 Impala 6 As is 13 Allocate 14 Affected 16 Thrush 17 Bruise 19 Thaw 20 Hook

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Smejkal - Adorjan, Yugoslavia 1972. Here White has a killer blow which ends the game. Can you see it? Send your answers on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer will be published next Saturday. Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Nf5+.



Last week's winners are: R R Simpson, Cumbernauld; M Plumridge, Taunton; E Kitchener, Chichester.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NUMISMATICS

BAWBEE
a. A shilling
b. A Scotch halfpenny
c. Any small coin of little value

PUSULATUM
a. Pure silver
b. A Roman trial piece
c. An incuse type

COB
a. Irish half-crown
b. Unrelated obverse and reverse
c. A Spanish-American dollar

RIDER
a. United Provinces Ducatoon
b. A supplementary issue
c. The forerunner of the Thaler

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